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London, Published by Richard Bentley, Old Burlington Street.

A

SUMMER RAMBLE

IN

SYRIA,

85847

WITH A TARTAR TRIP FROM

ALEPPO TO STAMBOUL.

BY THE REV. VERE MONRO.

3-e-14

IN TWO VOLUMES,

VOL. II.

3-e-14

LONDON:
RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.
Publisher in Ordinary to His Majesty.
1835.

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SUMMER RAMBLE IN SYRIA.

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May 9th.

Our road lay due north along the margin of the lake, where, at half an hour, a hot salt-spring flows near the ruins of two round towers, which are washed by the water; and the opening

mountains form a valley fertilized by a wide but shallow rivulet. One hour farther is the site of Magdalum, now called Midgdol, marked by a few huts standing close under the mountain, at the commencement of the plain of Gennesareth; but, with the exception of a coarse and massive piece of wall near the water's edge, it retains no traces of its former strength, which was so great, that the force sent by Agrippa for its reduction did not think it prudent to hazard an attack.

The town having received its name from the towers with which it was fortified, Jerome has fancifully supposed that Mary "Magdalene" was so called because *fortified by faith.* Her house was shown in the time of Breidenbach;* but although Midgdol continues to be one of the "holy places" which a monk errant is expected to visit before he is entitled to a certificate, the position of the house is no longer pointed out. The ground beyond, to the north, is swampy for some distance, and was at this time strewed with the carcases of camels, which had been sent to the fertile plain of Genne-

* Broc. Breid. Itin. Nice. Hist. Ecc. l. 8. Joseph. in vit. su. Nig. l. 3. Hiero. 1. Ep. 16.

sareth for pasture, but were unable to resist the severity of the past winter. Beyond the morass, the plain, enriched by numerous streamlets, retains all the indications of the productive soil which it has been said to possess; although the cultivation of grapes and figs,* and other fruits, is beyond the genius of the Arabs. It extends about four miles along the border of the lake, varying in its breadth inland according to the breaks in the mountains.

At the northern angle of the sea, where the shore turns away to the eastward, are a few pieces of ruined wall; the only visible remains of Bethsaida, now called "Sheikh Said." Having been once a considerable city of the Decapolis, the birth-place of Peter, Andrew, and Philip, it was probably the place where our Lord healed "Peter's wife's mother of a fever;" and according to Nicephorus, St. Helena dedicated here a church to St. Peter, upon the site of his house. Many were the miracles performed in this place and Chorazin; yet their obduracy drew down upon them a denunciation which has been so fully accomplished, that

* Joseph. Bell. Jud. 3. 18. It is stated that fruits upon this plain were in season *throughout the year.*

whereas they were then flourishing cities, scarcely enough now remains to prove that they existed.* A little to the left are some arches, apparently of more modern structure. It is possible that other vestiges might be discovered by diligent search; but the corn was so high, that it was impossible to attempt this without doing much mischief, and incurring the consequent displeasure of the natives, who, being placed here almost beyond the reach of control, are not rigidly attached to honesty, even when unprovoked by injury.

At this point we were to leave the Hadj route, which passes from Stamboul and Bagdad to Egypt, in order that we might visit the site of Capernaum, more to the east, at the end of the lake. The muleteer, however, stubbornly refused to go aside, urging the danger of losing his mules, and setting before me the certainty of losing my baggage, if we should fall in with any of the people of the district. But when reminded that, by his contract, he was to receive more than the usual payment in consideration of deviating from the route to visit this place,

* The site of Bethsaida is placed by Bonifacius a league beyond Capernaum, near the Jordan.

and that unless his contract was fulfilled he should not receive one para, he consented.

These rocks reach to the very edge of the water, and the pass over them enters, toward the top, a gallery curiously scooped along the face of the precipice, the sides of which are concave, the parapet wall next the sea being four feet and a half high, and the passage so narrow that the baggage mule could with difficulty get through. This seems to have been the old land communication between Bethsaida and Capernaum. The lake is here richly margined with a wide belt of oleanders, growing in such luxuriance as they are never known to do even in the most genial parts of Europe: they were at this time in full flower, and, when seen from the rocks above, presented an unbroken surface of the brightest roseate hue; and, imaged in the mirror of the clear blue lake, had decked the scene with all the glowing charms of nature, ever the fairest and most fascinating upon which the eye can rest.

On the other side of the pass is a rapid brook; and beyond it three aqueducts near together, descending from the rocks, now carry water for turning some overshot mills. Close at hand was

a tent belonging to a party of ragged hungry-looking Arabs, whose first appearance boded no good; but having asked a few questions, they allowed us to pass without molestation. There are pieces of ruin about the aqueducts, and higher up are the remains of a round building, which communicates with them, and seems to have been a cistern for their supply. The whole have the appearance of antiquity, and may once have belonged to Capernaum.

This stream has been called the "Fountain of Capernaum," and near it tradition has assigned the spot where our Saviour after his resurrection appeared to the disciples, and inquired, "Have ye any meat?" after which the multitude of fishes was enclosed, and St. John recognised the Lord.* It was here that our Saviour so mildly expostulated with St. Peter upon his presumptuous professions at the last supper; conveying by his *manner*, that which his words do not contain, an indirect and gentle reprimand for his disciple's apostacy. Upon the question being repeated the third time, "Peter, lovest thou me?" he could not fail to be reminded of his threefold denial of his master; and smart-

* John xxi.

ing, both at the remembrance of his former weakness, and because he thought that his sincerity was still distrusted, he answered with more fervency than before. Of the Roman doctrine of St. Peter's supremacy, founded upon this passage, it is sufficient to remark, that St. Peter himself never understood that it conferred upon him any such pre-eminent distinction. Upon the same occasion St. Peter's martyrdom was foretold, and the peaceful death of St. John.

Fenelon has reported one of those superstitions which grow up in dark times, and long keep root in darkened minds, that the print of our Lord's foot was seen upon a stone at this spot. The stone was afterwards carried away by the Saracens.*

It is not easy to reconcile the varying accounts respecting the Fountain of Capernaum. Brocardus says that it rises thirty paces from the sea; in opposition to which, F. Quaresmio is of opinion that for "*thirty paces*" should be read "*thirty stades*," and accordingly he places it four miles from the sea, and eight from Capernaum. Josephus tells us that the fountain

* Sal. tom. ix. cap. 8.

was supposed to be a " vein of the Nile," because it produced the *coracinum*, a fish found only in that river, near to Alexandria.* Two miles beyond, close to the water, are a few ruins, called by the Arabs Talhoom, which mark the supposed site of Capernaum. The thistles were so high and strong, that it was difficult to force the mules through them; and nothing could be more desolate than the ground around these few mouldering records, which serve only to tell that " Capernaum, which was exalted to the sky, has been brought low." Brocardus says, that in his time this once flourishing city was reduced to a few fishermen's huts; and we are further told, that the ruins of it were difficult to find, and were marked by two palm-trees† which grew near them: one still exists.

From this point we turned to the northward, crossing without any track a series of rocky hills partially cultivated with rye and barley. The Jordan was visible something more than a league beyond Capernaum, flowing into the lake by several mouths, and apparently forming a morass upon its shore: beyond it for-

* Bell. Jud. 3. 18.

† Bonif. de Per. Cult. Ter. Sanct.

merly stood Chorazin, but I could discover no traces of its ruins. On the other side of the river the hills rise abruptly, and on the top of them is a vast tract of table-land, verdant with rich pasture and dotted with ilex, where the Harêy Arabs pitch their tents, bordering upon the Houran.

At two miles from the lake, upon the route which we had taken, cultivation ceases, but a plentiful crop of grass was shooting up among the stones scattered upon the surface; where we passed several sheep-cotes, or small square enclosures, rudely put together, like those upon the sides of Engeddi, and at two hours we regained the Hadj route near Joseph's Well, supposed to be the place in which he was concealed by his brethren at the instigation of Reuben.

An immense Xan has been built there by one of the former Pachas of Acre, for the accommodation of the caravans, which still continue to travel by the same line from the East into Egypt: to this the well or cistern is attached, and though formerly dry, it is now made to contain water for the use of the pilgrims. According to the Vulgate, the expres-

sion is, "let us put him into a well:"* but the Septuagint and Chaldee read "one of the cisterns," or, as it is translated, "some pit;" upon which Rabbi Solomon comments, that it was one of those *broken cisterns that can hold no water*,† and though full of scorpions and serpents, Joseph was yet protected by God, and brought out again alive.

This cistern is not deep, about ten or fifteen feet in diameter, enclosed within a square building, and held in great reverence by the Moslem. In the gateway, central court, and magazines of the Xan were many carcases of goats, camels, and other cattle, that had died of cold during the winter, by which the Arabs in the neighbourhood of Lebanon were said to have lost twenty thousand sheep. At one hundred and fifty yards from the Xan are some ruins of a tomb, of no great antiquity, as may be collected from the form of an arch partially standing.

Instead of following the Hadj route toward the north, we crossed it upon leaving Joseph's Well, and passed up a rocky ravine among the low mountains to the westward. The latter were covered with short coarse grass, affording

* Genesis xxxvii. † Jeremiah ii. 13.

pasture for the flocks of the Arabs, a few of whose "black tents" were seen half a mile to the right; but we were allowed to pass without interruption, notwithstanding the forebodings of the muleteer to the contrary.

After traversing these mountains for two hours and a half, the route descends into a deep ravine, where a fountain issues and spreads over a garden of pomegranates; and one mile higher up is another, where probably were the positions of "the fountains that were under Bethulia," at which Achor was "bound and cast down" by the servants of Holofernes; and the same that were afterwards seized by five thousand men of the Assyrian army, when they "pitched in the valley, and took the waters, and the fountains of the waters," from whence the people of Bethulia were supplied, in order that "thirst" might "kill them," and their city might be given up.* The mountain upon which Saffat stands is one of the highest in that part of Galilee, and the town that crowns its summit being a conspicuous object from a distance, has given occasion to the conjecture that our Saviour, when speak-

* Jud. vii. 13, 17.

ing of a "city which is placed upon a hill," may have had this in sight, or at least was addressing persons to whom it was well known. The mountain has three separate tops, upon which Saffat is built in three divisions, subject to three sheikhs, and, as I was told, inhabited respectively by Mohammedans, Jews, and Christians, which, however, is not possible, since there appears to be little difference in the size of the divisions, while the Christians form a very small proportion of the population. The Jews, on the contrary, natives of various countries, are even more numerous than the Mohammedans. It is a singular archæological coincidence, that in the days of Judith* the city was subject to three governors as at present, of whom one, viz. Ozias, seems to have been chief, and to have had principal authority;† and so at this time two of the sheikhs are subordinate to the third, the Moosellim of the town.

The rain had fallen in floods for the last two hours, and as we ascended through the town, the narrow streets seemed little better than mountain torrents. The water was flowing furiously down them, while the old ladies were

* Jud. vi. 15. † vii. 23.

hoeing up drains upon the flat roofs of their mud-built abodes, to prevent it from soaking through. The English Government had not long before appointed an agent at Saffat, who was unfortunately absent, and the only shelter to be found was in the composing-room of the printing-office; a confined chamber, in which twelve Jews, employed by some British society, were preparing a version of the Scriptures in Arabic.

Never was such a confusion of tongues as sounded in this small assembly: German, Russ, Polish, and Arabic, in their utmost impurity, were passed about in gravity and wit, in buffoonery and sage apophthegms; and all seemed to have the effect of producing continued laughter. Having left my wet baggage among these merry Hebrews, I went directly to the governor, to ask for conveyance forward to Damascus on the following day. The divan was in the citadel overhanging the town; and the Moosellim, a man of "vinegar aspect," was in close conference with a Jew; who, as Ahmet remarked, no doubt had money to lend, or he would not have been treated with this distinction by a Turk. The condition of the Jewish

race has been greatly ameliorated under the Pacha's government, and their rights are so far secured to them, that a Jew now wears his head with confidence, although his coffers be full.

Having taken my seat upon the divan, coffee was brought; the Moosellim presented me his pipe, and inquiring to what nation I belonged, put several questions about the war and its probable termination. The Russians, he thought, could not fail to take the country, in the event of the Pacha's success against the Sultan; and, from his manner, it was not difficult to discover that his "wish was father to that thought." He urged me not to attempt the journey to Damascus alone,—a caution which was echoed by the Jew. They affirmed that it was scarcely possible even for a small caravan to escape without being robbed; seasoning their information with some well-authenticated stories of *so many* Turks who had lately been robbed by *so many* Arabs, and had lost *so much*.

But, worse than this, the language of the Moosellim implied, that if I persisted in going, he would not be answerable for the consequences: and after this warning, some difficulty

might possibly arise in recovering the value of my *kit*, should I chance to lose it; which, though nicely adjusted to the actual exigences of my case, was nevertheless far from worthless to me. The traveller has this important advantage in being robbed in the Pacha's dominions, that upon application to the government, the amount of his lost property is restored *at his own valuation*, and the district in which the robbery occurs is made responsible.

The Moosellim further assured me, that a caravan would leave Saffat for Damascus in two days, with which I might travel without fear, as an escort would accompany it. In answer to this, I told him that it would be impossible for me to continue so long in my present quarters; but if he would order me horses to go to Soura, (Tyre,) and return before the caravan should start, I would relinquish my present plan; otherwise I must proceed immediately to Damascus.

Two mules and a horse were accordingly made ready at an early hour next morning, and, with no baggage except the tent and cooking apparatus, we descended the mountain toward the north-west.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Excavated Tomb. — Monolithe Sarcophagus. — Village of Haioun. — Ruins near it. — English Scenery. — Altar of unhewn stone. — Narrow Ravine. — Clethora arborea.— Egyptian Figures.—Inscription near the village of Anner. —Tombs near Annowy.—Sarcophagus of King Hiram.— Mounted Arabs come to the tent at night. — Ras el Ain. —Solomon's Cisterns.—Aqueduct of Alexander.

May 10.

At half an hour the main road makes a westward turn toward Acre, our route lying to the northward, by an obscure and less beaten track, among low rocky hills. Two hours' farther is an excavated tomb, of which the outer orifice or doorway is quadrangular and horizontal, the edges forming a frame to receive a slab which fits into it. Within is an arch cut vertically, at a right angle with the outer orifice, through which is the passage into the tomb; but this was so filled with earth that it was impossible to enter. The stone door was lying near, broken.

A hundred yards beyond, in an elevated situation, are the ruins of a church or temple; but sufficient traces of the ground-plan do not remain to give an idea of its form, and the stone was so decomposed that none of the capitals could be distinguished. A piece of a Corinthian cornice was the only relic that remained entire to show the character of the building. On the north side of this stands a large monolithe sarcophagus, ten feet long by five wide, and five in depth: the cover, cut also from a single stone, was lying against it. The sarcophagus did not appear to have stood upon a regularly built base or pedestal, but rested upon four square blocks of stone placed under the corners.

Half a mile west is the village of Haroun upon a gentle eminence; and to the north-east of it, is a small round hill or mound, upon which are the ruins of a church of white marble, the capitals of which are of various kinds: some having the acanthus leaf, while some are fretted with network, and others plain, with a cross and four balls sculptured upon them.*

* The British Agent at Saffat told me afterwards that these were the ruins of a Jewish synagogue, existing two

At the east end are the remains of three semicircular projecting bays; but whether for windows or not, is difficult to determine: they are close together, and of different dimensions, and the whole ground-plan of the building is irregular. Of the columns none are perfect; but the fanciful variety in the capitals, and the existence of the cross, are sufficient to fix the date of the building at no very early period. At the foot of the mound is the cover of a sarcophagus, seven feet long, three feet ten wide, and two feet thick. The Jordan is three hours to the eastward.

After descending a hill from hence, we entered a forest, where the scenery was so entirely English as to call up certain sensations which in many a pilgrim would have led to a fit of melancholy. So inveterate is the perverseness of human feelings, that often even in scenes of happiness we forget that we have, and cleave to that we have not; and create misery where we might find mirth; distorting the purposes for which we live, and supplanting vigour of mind by a morbid imagination.

thousand years since. I presume that he had not seen the *cross* upon the capital.

"Such want-wits doth sadness make of us," that we estimate I *have*, to be the refuse of I *had!* as if "all our yesterdays" were fraught with joys, and every to-day a blank. The undulating hills were mantled with wood, falling back into bays, or standing out in detached patches upon the greensward. The oak, the thorn, and the bramble were together; the honeysuckle had committed wedlock with the rose; the blithe song of the woodlark was chaunted from the hawthorn; and here, for the first time since my departure from England, I heard the joyous note of the blackbird. His song is always monotonous and without melody; but associations are imbibed by recollection, and I was as much enraptured by the minstrelsy of this bird as a bare-legged Scot would have been by the bagpipes: indeed, I was well nigh elated like M. le Bon, who "if a throstle sing would fall straight a-capering." I looked for him in vain: he had retired into a thick ilex, as if he modestly felt, what is so often affectedly said, "really I don't sing." I have frequently seen caged in Italy a *blue* bird of the *ousel genûs*, but I never heard his chaunt — too well fed possibly; *cantabit vacuus.*

As we advanced the scenery grew more wild; rocks of all figures and heights were intermingled with the thicket, and the road became so rugged as to be impassable for anything except animals accustomed to pick their way through it. After penetrating an hour into the forest, I observed a large polygonal slab resting on three others, set upon their edges, the whole having the appearance of a table. A series of flat stones are laid so as to form a circle round it, at a distance of nine feet; the upper slab being fifteen inches thick, and if its form were an equilateral quadrangle, it might be called twelve feet square; such being its greatest extent in two directions.

The two side slabs which stand upon their edges to support it are polygonal, about the same thickness, eight feet long and three high; while the other upright stone at the end is not more than three feet in length. It does not appear certain whether there ever has been a fourth stone answering to the smaller one at the end, as no traces of it remain; yet such most probably was the case. The trunk of an old ilex growing against the fabric completely overshadows it with its branches.

ASIATIC

It is not easy to conjecture what may have been the intention of these stones thus arranged: for various reasons it is scarcely possible that they should have formed a tomb; for it was the practice of the earliest times to deposit the dead in caves hewn in the rocks; and when, at a later period, a sarcophagus has been used, the lower part has been cut from a single stone, and the top so fitted as to close it even against the admission of air. As we know of no law in antiquity against the use of tools in the formation of cemeteries, had this been the purpose to which the above fabric was destined, the lower stones at least would not have been left polygonal, but would have been closely united to each other, and to the slab which they support; whereas, so little has this been regarded, that the tabular slab rests upon the corners of those below it. If we could suppose this to be one of those "altars of unhewn stone," of which frequent mention is made in the Old Testament, it would be one of the most curious and interesting relics of antiquity in existence.

For a few hundred yards round this spot, the superficial stratum of the rock lies in large

slabs of the above description, which by the application of force would come away in thick *laminæ*, so as to be well adapted for the purpose to which we find them applied; and within a narrow compass about these, are several other circular collections of stones, but none with an altar remaining.

The forest curtaining the mountains as far as the eye can reach to the south-west, seems as if it met Mount Carmel;* which, however, cannot be the case, since the valley of the Kishon intervenes. To the north-east the forest stretches as far as Anti-Lebanon, and time spent in exploring it would be well repaid; for the numerous artificial mounds that may be seen, lead to the belief that some curious traces of patriarchal antiquity might be discovered. The forest continues with little intermission to within two hours and a half of Sour.

Toward evening we descended into a ravine, at the head of which, on the right, are the lower courses of a wall of great thickness, formed of large well-cut blocks of stone, enclosing a quad-

* This region may possibly be the *woodland* of Carmel, called δρυμος by the Septuagint, 2 Kings xix. Isaiah xxxvii. Strab. l. 16.

rangular space twenty-one feet by ten. This ravine is rather more than one hour in length; and the rocks rising almost perpendicularly on each side to a mountainous height, hem in the gorge to such a strait that at some points there is scarcely room for two horses to pass. Shrubs of various kinds cover the sides, among which the *Clethora arborea*, with its chaste, lily-like, pendent flower, was most conspicuous.

At the lower extremity of the ravine, high up in the rocks on the right, a kind of window has been cut, one yard square and as much in depth, on the inmost wall of which are four figures resembling those in the temples of Upper Egypt. An idol is seated upon a high-backed throne, in front of which stands an altar on a pedestal, and behind it two figures, one before the other, are seen offering to the seated God. The two sacerdotal figures stand upon pedestals, with their legs apart, in the Egyptian attitude; each foot of the pedestal being placed immediately below one foot of the figure which rests upon it. Behind the throne is a fourth figure, so nearly obliterated by time, that I do not venture to pronounce with certainty, but I believe it to be the same as the one-armed

Mendes of Egypt, answering to the Baal Peor of Scripture, although it is more common to find Horus in this situation, particularly when the seated deity is Isis.

Above these figures is the winged globe, perfectly fresh and beautifully executed, spreading over the whole group, and thus establishing beyond a doubt the consanguinity of these figures with those of Egypt. The seated divinity appears to be Aroeris Hierax. These sculptures have suffered from nothing but time, yet so frail is their existence that they crumble away under the touch; but whether Egypt or Phœnicia, or neither, be entitled to the credit of inventing them, is a discussion too long and too abstruse for my purpose.

Higher up in the rock is a large cavern, partly natural and partly artificial, but containing no sculptures; and I observed many other caves in the most elevated parts of this ravine, farther to the East; but these I did not examine, as it would have cost more time than I could afford.

One mile beyond the Egyptian sculptures is a well or cistern, at the foot of a hill, on which stands the village of Anner. The well is enclosed within a number of thin pieces

of stone, set up in rows, and along the top of one are the following letters of an inscription:

ЄKUCMHЄЄM

In the village, the walls of the houses contain immense masses of marble, which have at some time or other belonged to ancient and more important edifices.

Annowy is a mile beyond. In the rocks between these two places are many tombs, cut to the form and size of coffins, and about the latter village the traces of antiquity are still more numerous. Hewn stones are scattered about near fragments of ancient walls, and the road passes over two wide steps of white marble, on each side of which is a solid square block of stone, that seems to have answered the purpose of a door-post. Half a mile beyond, close to the road, is a gigantic sarcophagus, called Abber Hiram;* having a base fifteen feet long, ten high, and ten wide. The sarcophagus upon the top of this, cut from a single stone, is twelve feet long, six high, and eight wide, having a cover three feet thick, cut away round the edge, so as to fit close into the sarcophagus, the interior of which is seven feet long, and two and

* The Tomb of Hiram.

a half wide. It has been opened at one end; though whether Cambyses or John Hyrcanus made the incision, is not inscribed; but the known wealth of Hiram would render him after death a fit victim for plunder in the eyes of the great sepulchral thesaurophagi. As the sun had set, I pitched the tent near the tomb, an hour and a quarter from Sour.

The people of Annowy had given utterance to some incivilities as we passed, and it was not without importunity that they could be prevailed upon to sell a few eggs to add to our homely supper. Having taken a direct route instead of going round by Acre, which is the usual way, the probability of being plundered was set before us every hour, and these villagers seemed likely to realize the presages of the muleteer. The night had advanced, the animals were at rest upon the grass near the tent, and we were stretched upon the same couch, when as I was pondering upon things that I had seen during the day, and people that I had not seen for ages, a small company of Arabs rode up to the front of the tent. As the fire shone upon the rude muskets slung from their shoulders, and the broad leathern

belt which carried their coarsely ornamented pistols, at the same time lighting up their dark visages and ill-covered chins, the appearance of these knights was more picturesque than pleasant.

One of the party dismounted, but without leaving his horse, commenced a "talk," questioning our business and destiny, which under other circumstances would have been considered "extremely impertinent;" but not being in a position to quarrel, Ahmet prudently answered his interrogations, stating by way of prelude that I had the Pacha's firman, and most probably adding that I was a British consul,—a very favourite resource among servants in the East, for giving consequence and security to their masters. They took their leave after some time, without being subject to any uncivil questions as to what *their* business might be; for in truth I felt no curiosity to be made acquainted with it.

Started next morning one hour before day, and crossed the country to Ras el Ain,* near the shore, two miles and a half south of Sour. On the east side of this place passes the aque-

* "Head of the water."

duct, sunk into the earth, the edge being even with the surface. The whole fabric is about seven feet and a half wide, the channel along which the water is conducted occupying rather more than four; and the arches upon which it is carried, where it does not form a trench in the ground, are of great solidity.

At Ras el Ain there is a large cistern, from whence the water rushing out into a small rivulet, runs parallel with the aqueduct, and supplies the fountain near the gate of Sour; and it is from this cistern and spring that the place has received its name. Near the spot is a square solid base, which seems to have supported a tower, and may possibly cover a cistern; and two hundred yards nearer to the sea is another larger cistern of great depth. These are called "Solomon's Cisterns," and are said to have been made by him in liquidation of his debt to King Hiram: but Maundrell has set aside this tradition.

The Aqueduct of Alexander, bowing round from the mountains to the north, crosses the plain to the west. Of this, in its western direction toward the town, few remains are extant; part having been covered by the accumulated

sand, and part wasted by time. Not far from the town are three of its arches still standing, upon the sides of which an aqueous deposit has been formed by the water dripping from the channel, of such immense thickness as to bear testimony to the length of time that the aqueduct has existed, while its utter disappearance elsewhere tells how long it has ceased *to be*. This deposit is five feet in thickness, eighteen in width, and about twelve in depth. In colour and appearance it resembles a coarse sponge, rather than the linear formation which is more commonly produced by water, as upon the rocks around the fall of Terni; and the interior of these archesis so completely cased with this substance, as to resemble a vaulted cavern of natural rock. Farther to the east, is a small hill, upon which stands at present a mosque. The line of the aqueduct runs at the foot of this on the northern side, and soon after is seen stretching away due north toward the mountains of Lebanon, in which direction it is unbroken; the arches still standing without interruption. Nearer to the town of Sour, a piece of the stone-work of the aqueduct is overthrown, into which an old fig-

tree has interwoven itself in so curious a manner as to have become part of it; embracing some of the largest stones, and being itself encradled in the mass.* Having been formed for the supply of Tyre, the aqueduct keeps a straight line across the sand toward Sour, which it is most reasonable to suppose occupies the site of some portion of the ancient town. Travellers of different ages have hazarded various conjectures to the contrary, founded, as it appears, rather upon the basis of their own imaginations, than the sound warranty of the earliest history, which continually represents Tyre to have been an island.

* The stag's head imbedded in the trunk of a tree, which is preserved among the curiosities of the Belvedere at Vienna, is a very remarkable instance of the manner in which a tree will close over a substance which is no part of itself.

CHAPTER XIX.

Work of Alexander.—Insecure Port.—Return toward Saffat.—Pitch the Tent near Haroun.—Visit from the Sheikh.—Reach Saffat early in the morning.—Second Visit to the Moosellim.—Third Visit, and stormy altercation with him.—Cause of his dislike to the English.—Take up abode in the house of a Book-binder.—Jewish Sects.—Village of Mirûn.—Curious difference of Discipline.—Abou Sookn.—Leave the Town.

May 11.

In examining the peninsula of Sour, it would be very difficult to fix the exact point where the work of Alexander has commenced on the main land; so entirely has the accumulation of sand effaced all traces of human labour, that there is not even a difference in the level, by which it can be distinguished from the surrounding shore. Near the water, however, his work is apparent; for the sea, in the lapse of ages, has washed away the bank, and thus the substructions have been left exposed, consisting of granite and marble columns of different sizes,

laid in rows, supporting and intermixed with unworked blocks of similar material, together with pieces of cornice and capitals indiscriminately massed in the same embankment. This is most conspicuous on the south side, where the bank is higher than on the other: nevertheless, the foundation of prostrate columns is also visible on the northern shore. It may be presumed, that where these substructions cease, the island commenced; and taking these two points for a boundary on the land side, the present circumference of the remaining part of the peninsula is about two miles. I cannot, however, pretend to accurate knowledge upon this point, since I did not walk round it, and the intervention of ravines and inequalities in ground cause so much deception, that without actual survey no one can judge with certainty of any given tract of land; more particularly in an eastern climate, where the clearness of the atmosphere brings objects so much nearer to the eye than they actually are. It may be easily believed that the island formerly had a circumference of three miles, or even more; for the ravages of the sea upon it are made apparent on the south side by a row of prostrate

columns, fifteen in number, which formerly lay under the Alexandrine embankment, but which are now exposed; while the sea flows over them, and even some distance beyond them.

Tyre is said formerly to have had two secure and commodious harbours. The port in these days is one of the most insecure and dangerous to enter upon the whole coast; which can only be accounted for by supposing that the two reefs, which run north and south from the western points of the peninsula, the greater part of which are now below water, were formerly visible, and built upon; so that their position being definitely marked, the passage would be easy, and shelter afforded to vessels anchoring behind them. It is behind these reefs that the present harbours exist; that on the north side being safest and most used.

The town of Sour is small and dirty, and its bazaars, of the same quality. Having spent a few hours in surveying it, and its vicinity, I returned to the mules, which had been left near the little stream beyond the plain; and retracing our steps towards Saffat, we pitched soon after sunset near Haroun. The Sheikh made

me a visit, and brought a bowl of milk and some wood, regretting that he could not supply bread, for the village did not afford it. I was much pleased with this man, and sincerely pitied his condition. Supposing me to be an *impiegato* of the Pacha, he spoke much in praise of Ibrahim; said that he was a *good man*, and hoped he would not be hard upon the people; and added, that he had not yet levied money upon the village. The Sheikh was seated near the fire with one attendant, and while we were talking, a voice was heard, as of a crier giving some public notice in the village, when I inquired what this might mean. "Oh," said the Sheikh, "that is an order for the villagers to carry trees to-morrow to Acre." The Pacha had directed plantations to be made in the neighbourhood of Acre, and every village was compelled to contribute olive and cherry trees, sixty of each sort every day, for ten days. "This," said the Sheikh, "*is* rather hard; for all our horses and mules are taken, and we are obliged to carry the burdens upon our shoulders; Acre being six hours across the mountains." This Arab had a manly, handsome person; and the modesty of his address,

and the gentleman-like intonations of his voice, impressed me strongly in his favour.

Started before light, and reached Saffat by eight in the morning, under a heavy rain. About midday it was rumoured that the caravan would not leave for two days; upon hearing which I went to the Governor, under whose direction such things are placed. Occupied with the same Jew as before, he was now counting out money; which reminded me of Ahmet's surmise as to the cause of cordiality between them. He received me with great coolness; but as there were a knot of merchants about him, I attributed this rather to a press of business than to any personal slight. He assured me the caravan would leave next day, and I departed. I had previously made a contract with a muleteer to take me the next day, *whether the caravan went or not,* and to reach Damascus in three days, the caravan always employing four; and, following the custom of the country, I had received from him a small sum of money, in order to bind him to his bargain.

Next morning the muleteer informed me that the caravan would not leave Saffat, and

therefore that *he should not*. I urged the tenor of his contract, but in vain: and hereupon I made a third visit to the Governor, to demand its fulfilment; but the latter declined enforcing it, upon the ground of the man's fear of being robbed; and a tempestuous conference ended by my threatening to complain to the Pacha, and throwing out some hints about the pains and penalties of Acre. During our altercation the Moosellim's countenance quivered with ire, and I hoped to have seen his beard curl; a phenomenon of which I have read, but never witnessed.

One hour after this I received intelligence that the caravan would leave the town immediately. In the mean time I had gone to the bazaar to seek the muleteer who had taken me to Sour, and with him I made an agreement to start at midday, on condition of paying ten piastres more for each horse, in consideration of the danger he was about to incur; so that I had now two contracts in hand, and both parties were claiming a right to serve me. These two litigants were before me, when the British Agent made his appearance, and was very anxious to settle the dispute by giving the first

contractor two hundred and fifty stripes in presence of the Governor; a severity which was not warranted by his offence. He said that the Moosellim was enraged against the English; for that having on a former occasion molested an Englishman, who laid his case before the Pacha, the latter informed the Governor by letter, that upon the next complaint from any European, he should be sent to work among the criminals at Acre: this story I was acquainted with previous to my last visit; and therefore it was, that in concluding our conversation, I joined Acre and the Pacha in the same sentence. The cause of the altercation between the Moosellim and the traveller was this:—the latter had engaged horses to go forward, which the former seized for the service of Government.

Upon my return to Saffat, instead of taking up my abode in the printing-office, I had sought shelter in the house of a Jew, who was by profession a book-binder. His shop, neither large nor clean, contained a spacious bowl of paste, and many quires of thick paper, for his professional labours. In furniture he had not been extravagant: two stools, unsteady upon

their legs, stood in the centre; and in one corner was his bed, upon which lay a tattered rug, the Jew's chief fence against the cold. An old door, which by day served as his pasting-dresser, was laid down in an opposite corner to serve as my bed by night; and my servant stretched himself upon the stony, uneven earth, in the centre; while our hostess and the young ladies bivouacked in an outhouse, without any of the luxuries which we were enjoying.

The Jews of Saffat are divided into three sects: the Perugim, who are exclusively Russians, and the Seffardim, who are Turkish subjects, and rather more lax in their tenets than the other sects. The latter speak the Spanish language, and are descended from those Jews who, being expelled from Spain about four centuries since, took refuge in the Turkish dominions. The third sect are the Kassidim, consisting of Germans and Austrians. Near the synagogue of the latter is a cistern of water, into which the Jews of Kassidim each time before they pray descend, and, resting the chin upon the balls of the hands, and covering the ears with the fingers, crouch down three times, immersing the whole person. This is not done

by the other sects. Haud procul hinc balneus est, quo singulares uniuscujusque schismatis mulieres, menstruali tempore peracto, per quindecim dies viro intactas, seipsas immergere oportet: postea mariti thalamum absoluta quæque conscendit.

The synagogues are called by the Jews "schools," and being provided with numerous Talmuds and other books, are left open for study. In the school of the Perugim I saw the Old Testament, written upon parchment, and rolled round two sticks, according to its primitive form. While in the school of the Kassidim, a Jew asked if I was an Englishman; and hearing that I was, next inquired if I knew Mr. Samson of London. I did not. Did I know Mr. Rothschild? and would I take charge of a letter to London? I would, if it should not contain money, and if the writer was not very anxious that it should arrive there. A small note was afterwards forwarded to me, which I delivered accordingly.

Upon the citadel hill are found some remains of the old Bethulia. Outside the gate is a piece of foundation wall, formed of small polygonal stones, embedded in a mass of mortar; and

inside is another *pezzo* of the same description, apparently twenty feet thick, in which three large facing-stones remain at the bottom. These are square, and laid in an even regular course. The lower part of the south tower, for twenty feet above the foundation, appears to be antique, consisting of stones some of which are eight feet long and three wide; and beyond this is an arched doorway, rather pointed, leading into a vaulted hall fifty feet by fifteen, near to which are remains of walls and arches. On the east side of the building a hole has been made into a narrow passage in the foundation, the end of which is stopped with earth: on the right side of it is an arch, cut out of a single block of stone, like that seen in the Memnonium at Abydus, and conducting to another passage.

Upon a hill east of the town stands the village of Mirûn, where is the sepulchre of Ribi Scimon Ben Jokai, a saint of great esteem among the Jews, as being the composer of the Zoar Akadosh.* This sepulchre is in the hands of the Jews; but their own burying-ground is on the hill-side under the town of Saffat; and

* Word of God.

this curious difference of discipline between the Perugim and Kassidim is observed in the mode of burial:—the former carry their dead to the grave upon small pieces of iron hoop, jointed in the centre, and fixed into two poles; whereas the Kassidim carry their corses between two poles in the same manner, but instead of the jointed iron they substitute cords, asserting that the latter wounds the body more, and thus it undergoes a sort of purgatory. Of the Seffardim I did not see the bier.

When we were upon the point of starting, Ahmet had prepared some fish for my *déjeúner*, called Abou Sookn, from the Lake of Tiberias. It had been simply fried in oil; and my loins being girt for the way, I seated myself upon the threshold of the Jew's door, and ate it from the pan, without any of the piquant aids that are commonly called in; and never was anything so delicate. What a host of recollections crowded down my throat with each delicious morsel! Richmond, thine eels!—but they are laboured by science ere they attain perfection; and ye little Blackwall fry! fairest gems of the stream! ye too are embalmed in batter with a libation of lemon-

juice: and thou, *turbot à la crême et aux gratins!* sublimest production of the *Rocher!* thou delightest by a borrowed savour. But thou, Abou Sookn, what shall I say of thee, "most rascally sweet" fish! Thou art unique!

No ketchup of fungus to deck thy corse,
Thou liest alone in thy glory!

CHAPTER XX.

Descend into the Wady el Ghor.—Rich Pasture-land of the Houran.—Caravan on the banks of the Jordan.—Jacob's Bridge.—Waters of Merom.—Bivouac.—Leave before Daylight.—Mountains of Gilead.—Halt of Caravan.—Muleteers refuse to go forward.—Compel them to do so.—Canetre, the Canatha of Pliny.—Tent of Commandant.—Levée of Houran Bedouins.—Escort.—Country between Canetre and Damascus.—Sassa.—The Pharpar.—Cultivated Plain toward Damascus.—Distant Prospect of the City.—Disappointment upon reaching it.

May 13th.

LEFT Saffat by a north-eastward route, between the hills on which the town stands. Road rocky. A gradual descent for an hour brought us into the Wady el Ghor, well cultivated and fertile; beyond which is seen the rich pasture-land of the Houran, rising gradually from the river, and at a greater distance dotted with oaks. Two hours and a half were occupied in passing the valley. The caravan,

consisting of fifty men, and a hundred and fifty camels, had left the town some time before us, and I found the party already encamped upon the rising ground on the left bank of the Jordan, over against Jacob's Bridge, half a mile to the south of the Waters of Merom.* Evaporation was beginning to tell upon this small lake, and on the further side reeds and tamarisks were growing up so as to form a jungle. Below the bridge, near one mile to the south, is a small tumulus, where are the remains of a fortress, which I take to be that built by Baldwin IV.† in 1178, for the defence of the bridge against the Saracens of Damascus. The bridge is of some standing, but no part of it can be referred to any remote antiquity. It is the practice of the Arabs, when exacting tribute of strangers, to post themselves at the bridges, where these exist; and for this reason a small detachment of cavalry had been stationed here by the Pacha, to keep the pass free. On the other side of the river is a large Xan, which

* Josephus calls this lake Semechonitis, which he describes as a bog or fen; and such is in fact the nature of it, although this disagrees with its ancient name of Memerom, which signifies *deep water*.—Joseph. Bell. 3. 18. Salm. Proleg.

† Gul. Tyr. lib. 18, 21, 22.

F. Quaresmio supposes was built upon the site of Baldwin's fortress; but this would not accord with the description of William of Tyre, who says that the latter stood *upon a small hill*, whereas the Xan is at the bottom of a hill: our caravan party preferred bivouacking in the long grass near it. The ground was full of springs, and my paploma and capote were soon moistened through, while the tent was visited by tribes of frogs of a vivid green colour, which, leaping when they were disturbed, settled either upon my person, or in the rice, as it might chance. Upon this ground tradition assigns the spot where Jacob wrestled with the angel.*

In the preceding year, during Ibrahim's march to Damascus, three hundred men had died at this Xan of the cholera, and were thrown into the Jordan; for which reason the Agent at Saffat gravely advised me not to drink the water without first putting an onion into it. Our departure was fixed for three o'clock next morning, and the party started under a brilliant starlight; the atmosphere being cold and searching, with the southern point of Anti-Le-

* F. Quaresm.

banon, at no great distance, covered with snow. Our march lay nearly east, and as the morning advanced it showed that we were traversing the country without any track, where the wild triticum, as if untouched for ages, grew up like rye, to the height of five feet. The caravan, trusting to their escort, and the terror of the Pacha's name, had taken a new route more to the southward, not having passed that way formerly lest they should be plundered, or at least heavily taxed, but always keeping close to the mountains.

At one hour we entered the skirts of the wooded country, where a few oaks were thinly scattered, and the land, swoln rather than hilly, had the appearance of park scenery in England. As the wood thickens to a forest, on each side of the route, at a league distance, are seen the small conical detached mountains of Gilead, verdant with grass and timber: and were not the oaks of this district pollarded by the Arabs for making charcoal, there would be a fine display of woodland. The camels being heavily laden, were unable to make long stages, and moved slowly. A halt was accordingly ordered before eight; and supposing that the whole

party would stop, my baggage was removed, and the mules turned loose. This was scarcely done, when the soldiers, whom I had supposed to be intended for our security, passed forward, and in a jesting tone called out to me to follow, as they knew I was in a hurry, and they meant to be in Sassa, nine hours farther, before night: but I was told that the caravan would remain some time longer in its present position, and then proceed to Canetre, three hours beyond, where it would rest until the next morning. This was not the manner in which I meant to spend the day; but I made no remark until I had finished my coffee, when an hour and a half having elapsed, I ordered the mules to be brought. The muleteer with the utmost indifference replied that he would not stir without the caravan; and all my remonstrances proving fruitless, while the Arabs of the party, collecting about him, confirmed him in his refusal and encouraged him to insolence, I set my foot behind him, and giving a gentle push against his breast, he was laid flat upon his back in the grass; and I took that opportunity of telling him, that if the cattle were not brought and ready in ten minutes, I would

return to Saffat, and before night he should have five hundred stripes; reminding him at the same time that the Consul would have given him two hundred and fifty the day before but for my interference. A murmur of disapprobation passed among his companions —"*Moush tuyb kiddy, moush tuyb;*"* but the unexpected shock had a galvanic effect upon the muleteer, who instantly put himself in motion, and within the stipulated time we were *en route.*

The scenery of the forest became very picturesque; the turf generally good, and sometimes level as a carpet. The sun was bright, but being tempered by the cool breeze from the snowy tops of Anti-Lebanon, the atmosphere was delicious, and the ride as enjoyable as it could be to one who, besides being friendless and ill-mounted, was threatened with every sort of mischief. At two hours and a half we entered an open plain, where were the first signs of human existence that had appeared through the forest: here were seen flocks and herds, and droves of horses of all ages, but chiefly mares with their foals. Two miles to

* "It is not good to do so."

the right was a camp of black tents, the inhabitants of which were employed in making charcoal, as appeared from the numerous fires around them. In half an hour more we reached Canetre, the Canatha of Pliny and Josephus, of which the ruins are visible about the present village. The Pacha had placed a guard here; and on the south side was a tent, near which a number of white horses were picketed, as if belonging to the troop of the station. The muleteer, who upon all previous occasions had accompanied the caravans by a route more to the northward, was at a loss to know what direction to take; and as it is *one* among the duties of a guide to show the road, I sent him to the village to procure information; but no person was willing to give it, and I applied to the commandant of the guard. He had lately succeeded to the command, and was now sitting upon his mat in the centre of a spacious tent, holding a levee of the Houran Bedouins; and a fine kestrel, with his jesses on, was at his side. This assembly was so thoroughly primitive, that I question if the model has been recast since the days when Ishmael himself called around him his dependent sheikhs, to receive

their compliments, or direct their measures. They were fine-looking men, clad in the Bornouse, and Wahabee, with its fringe of silken strings hanging over their dark romantic faces. The white horses, of exquisite breed, which I had observed pinned near the tent, belonged to these sheikhs; and as their business was settled, or their visit of form concluded, they took their leave, and armed only with their immense lances, cantered away to the eastward across the plain in small coteries of three and four together. These are the most determined robbers of Syria, and living near the borders of the Great Desert, it is useless for any force to pursue them: one of the soldiers who afterwards attended me said of them, that "once mounted, they are seen no more, for their horses are like gazelles."

The bearing of these Bedouins indicated feelings of pride and even dignity, which it is not easy to account for in those accustomed only to the etiquette of the desert. None of them perhaps had ever before seen the European dress, and among any other people in the world such a novelty would be an object of curiosity; yet they did not even deign to look

at me, but, continuing their conversation, appeared to regard me no more than they would have done one of their own fraternity, had he stood near the circle. In the commandant there was a haughtiness which could not be exceeded even in a Turk: abstaining from offering the slightest token of civility, he allowed me to stand outside the tent, and conversed with averted eyes; and it was not without importunity that he could be prevailed upon to hear what I had to request. The firman neither he nor his secretary could read; but as I carried it, he said his duty to the Pacha required that he should see me properly guarded, and he would therefore send two soldiers to attend me as an escort so far as the route was dangerous. It was to no purpose that I wished to dispense with this honour, disclaiming all belief that anything was to be apprehended from the Arabs, and requesting that he would only furnish me with a guide from the village. The hauteur of his manner rendered it impossible that I should make any acknowledgment of thanks, lest such an expression might be deemed either familiarity or servility; and I

walked away without the usual formalities, desiring Ahmet to say that I should return to my baggage and expect his guards immediately.

One of the soldiers carried a spear about fourteen feet long, with black feathers tied to the top; a sort of mace which always precedes a character of distinction in those parts, and might be made very effective as a weapon of offence. I had supposed the commandant to be a Turk, but by his guards it was said that he was a Kourde; one of those marauding wanderers who inhabit the banks of the Euphrates, and with whom Ibrahim has garrisoned many of the villages in the north of Syria. He had under his command a hundred men of the same tribe with himself, whose nominal pay was a hundred piastres* per month, of which they had not as yet touched one para. To each was also allotted a small piece of land for his own cultivation; which they are enabled to carry on by the regulation of their duties; being called upon to patrol the country alternately by fifty at a time, the other fifty remaining at home.

* A piastre is equal to three pence English, andcontains forty paras.

From Canetre to Damascus is a dead flat, in the course of which numerous streams occur. For the first four hours the grass-land, intermixed with a small portion of forest, supplies pasture for cattle and large herds of camels; and in places where the land was most moist, the plain was covered with the smaller hemerocallis, or "lily of the valleys," alluded to in the Canticles. At four hours, the soldiers having brought us to a point beyond which robberies seldom occur, and where it was impossible that we should miss the road, returned to Canetre; and I sent back by them those acknowledgments of obligation to their commandant, which his contemptuous manner prevented my offering in person. Sassa two hours farther, and the road execrable, over a field of rock or lava.* Portions of an old road are seen in patches, so well executed as to resemble rather a coarse mosaic than a carriage track; and the peculiar character of its external appearance being distinct from that of a Roman road,

* Ali Bey has described the entire route from Jacob's Bridge to Damascus as lying over a surface of this description. He probably journeyed nearer to the mountains, where the superficial stratum may be such; but I saw nothing of the sort until arriving at this point.

induces the presumption that it was one of those "highways," now "desolate" and "waste," according to the unerring word of prophecy, of which no less than forty-two are marked by Arrian, Josephus, Diodorus Siculus, and Eusebius, as existing long after the sun of Israel had set.* The wall which surrounds Sassa forms a square, each side of which is about a hundred and fifty paces long, and fifteen feet in height; and the roofs of the houses not being seen above, it has the appearance of a large garden. The tent was pitched near the gate, upon the bank of a rapid stream flowing toward Damascus, which being increased by others in its course, forms the Pharpar, one of those rivers which have ever been the pride of the Damascenes; while the Abana, issuing from the mountains nearer to the city, is now called the "Barrada."

From Sassa to Damascus, six hours, our way crossed a plain cultivated with wheat, yet not so productive as to be called

"Un piano fruttifero ed abbondante."†

Damascus is closely flanked on the west-north-west side by the high range of Anti-Lebanon,

* Vide Keith, Evidence of Prophecy. † Ariosto.

and not on the east, as seems to be implied in the poetical description,

> "A questa terra il primo raggio tolle
> Della nascente aurora un vicin colle."

The distant prospect of the city is imposing, and the sight is yet more gladdened as one draws near. Her full domes and burnished minarets tower above the rich forest of fruit-trees in which she is embosomed. Here every tint of Nature's livery combined, from the sombre leaden olive to the livelier hues of the apricot and the orange, relieve the eye from the dreary waste that disfigures all beyond and all around. The deluded imagination conjures up visions of the past, the fancy brightens at every step, and the enraptured traveller seems to be approaching the "city of joy," whose splendour once earned for her the title of "Queen of Syria." But the first objects that meet the eye upon reaching the gardens which encircle her dissipate the dream, and he finds that "the city of praise is not left: Damascus is waxed feeble: anguish and sorrow have taken her."* The fruit-trees, which surpass in size any that I have seen except upon the banks

* Jer. lix.

of the Cydnus, grow in small enclosures of mud walls,* and are watered by an infinity of paltry streamlets.

"Per la città duo fiumi cristallini
Vanno inaffiando per diversi rivi,
Un numero infinito di giardini,
Non mai di fior, non mai di fronde privi."

The extreme outskirts are planted chiefly with olives. We reached the gate at ten A. M.

* These walls are formed by a frame being set up, into which sufficient mud is thrown to make one slab: after this the frame is removed, and another slab formed farther on.

CHAPTER XXI.

Degradation to which Christians were subjected at the Gate of Damascus. — Political Change. — Egyptian Guard. — Remarks of the Damascenes.—Roman Convent.—Distinct Bazaars of Damascus.— Fantasía in celebration of the Peace.—Rejoicing of the Christians. — Assailed by the Mohammedans.—Prisoners taken by Ahmet Bey and sent to Acre. — Partiality of Sheriff Bey to the Christians. — Rivers Abana and Pharpar. — Xan Assad Pacha — Description of.—Water of Damascus.—Café near the Gate of Peace — Its wretched construction. — Remark of Turkish Guard. — Fruit-garden resorted to by Christians.—Festa. —Arabic and Saracenic Inscriptions.—Gate of the Tombs. —Gate of Sakleh.—Window of St. Paul—Boræa the resort of all orders.

May 15th.

PREVIOUS to the capture of the place ten months before by Ibrahim, it was the practice to make Christians dismount here, as they were not allowed to ride through "the sacred city." All arms were taken away; and if the ill-starred visitor chanced to wear the European dress, especially the hat, he could not enter on any terms, but was driven from the gate, hooted, pelted, and treated with every indignity. If he

wore a white turban, a distinction forbidden to a Nazarene, it was pulled off and he was compelled to proceed bareheaded. But "how are the mighty fallen!" Never was so great a political change produced in so short a time. Now, every Mohammedan is disarmed, unless he be in the service of the government; while the privilege of carrying arms is granted to Europeans, and upon application for a teschere, to Christians in general. The Egyptian soldiers who were upon guard asked no questions about my gun, but upon learning my nation exclaimed, "Inglees, tuyb bono," (an Englishman, it's all right,) and I rode in, one of the muleteers marching first, shouldering his musket, and clearing the way through the long, narrow, crowded streets, by continually crying aloud, "Mohammed Ali Pacha:" not, as I imagine, hoping to pass me off for the Pacha, but intending to insinuate that I was in his service, and travelled with authority; a *ruse* which was very successful, and very laughable, when contrasted with his fear, a short time before we reached the gate, lest his arms should be taken away and himself forced into the ranks.

No vehement expressions of insolence follow-

ed me, though I could frequently hear in a low suppressed voice, "Franghe! shoof, shoof abou tangera!"—"A Frank! look, look at the hat!" "Abou" signifies in Arabic "father of," or "having;" *i. e.* it always describes possession when thus prefixed. "Tangera" is the pot in which rice or lentils are boiled, which is thought to resemble our hat. So that "abou tangera," literally rendered, is "father of the pot;" and this is the Damascus method of describing a man who wears a hat.

The Christian quarter where the Roman convent is situated, is on the north side of Damascus; to reach which it was necessary to pass entirely through the city, which took up nearly an hour. Upon my arrival, the monks were at dinner, and I was desired to sit down and wait in the court, as the superiore could not be disturbed in the discharge of so important a function. At the end of a quarter of an hour I began to be restless, and indeed I may say hot, for the sun darting its rays directly into the close space, confined as it was by high walls, had heated the very stones. But the cook, of whom I inquired about a Xan or some other place where a Christian could find admission without waiting

half his life, assured me that the superiore's entertainment was approaching *ad mala*, and that there was no other resting-place for travellers: moreover, he discoursed so ably and seasonably of the good things under his own particular jurisdiction, that I was fain to compose myself. The superiore was a Spaniard, as were all his fraternity,* but, upon reading my letters of introduction, subjected me to none of the questions which are usually addressed to Europeans upon their arrival; who, being always suspected to be missionaries, are required to show the books in their possession. The Spaniard politely led the way to a cool room, in which was a comfortable bed, and begged that I would use the convent as my own house, and remain in it as long as I chose; that I would abstain from meat on Fridays, and attend as much as I conveniently could to the hours of locking up; and concluded by saying, that having dined, he should now go to sleep.

In Damascus, as in all Oriental cities, every distinct trade has its appropriate bazaar, in which merchandise of a different description

* The Spanish monks are far more bigoted than the Italians, and where they preside restrictions are greater.

is not found. Thus the makers of boots and boxes, the venders of pipe-sticks and dealers in embroidery, the workers in brass, jewellers, tobacconists, and perfumers, each have their allotted street, where the proprietors, seated in front of their shops upon little elevated stages of mud spread with a mat or carpet, pass the day in smoking, chatting, and cheating their customers. The bazaars are covered in and clean, and though better than those of Cairo or Aleppo, are yet narrower, and every way inferior to those of Constantinople.

A few nights before my arrival, the town had been illuminated, and a general "fantasía" held, in celebration of the peace concluded with the Sultan. Upon this occasion, the Christians paraded the streets in groups, and assembling in front of all the most public resorts of the Turks, chaunted forth the praises of Ibrahim, and made orations to his honour. For the first two days this passed without notice; but on the third, the Turks, exasperated beyond endurance, fell upon them and wounded several. Ahmet Bey, the vice-governor in the absence of Sheriff Bey,* came down upon the

* Governor-general of Syria.

assailants with a detachment of Egyptian Arabs, and made a great many prisoners; fifty of whom he sent off to Acre, to work at the repairs,—a condemnation more severe than our hulks: the rest were treated with the bastinado. Sheriff is a great favourite with the Christians, in consequence of the protection and immunities which they derive from him. He was at this time gone upon a progress to set in order the governments of the different districts; and it was said that had he been at Damascus during the disturbance, the fifty Turks who were transported to Acre would have lost their heads. Like Hotspur, this is his common morning's amusement; and he gives due notice, that any Turk who oppresses a Christian may expect this fate. An English resident remarked to me, "In short, sir, he is just the boy for the Christians; he takes off the Turks' heads like artichokes." But the most valuable mark of favour shown to the Franks is, that their goods are not examined at the custom-house, and they are subject to no duties. During the Rhamazan, the Bey smokes his pipé and takes his coffee as usual, to the great scandal of all good Mussulmans; and when the Franks visit him, if they appear in

the Turkish dress, he reprimands them; "Why don't you come to see me in your hats?—the Turks shall know that the times are changed."

The rivers Abana and Pharpar, diverging into seven principal streams, are conveyed through the city by numberless minor ducts, and supply each divan in every house with a fountain, as well as every public building. The most distinguished of these last is a Xan called "Assad Pacha," from one of that name and rank who built it; and in this edifice the chief merchants have their magazines. It is well constructed, of stone, and supported by four massive square columns, surmounted by an arched roof, which had suffered severely from an earthquake not long before. Strong padlocked doors round the court close the depôts of the merchants; and outside near each is a large chest, upon which the proprietors, seated with their pipes, await the orders of the traders. A flight of stairs on each side of the gateway leads to a gallery above, into which the doors of other depôts also open. Bales and boxes are seen lying about; but there is little of that pomp and circumstance of trade, "bustle," and

the place is much like the Bull and Mouth yard in the month of August.

As I was sitting upon one of the chests, kicking my heels against the side, and wondering at the immense burden some porters were laying upon a splendid ass,* a Jew addressed me in Italian. "You are an Englishman?" — "I am." — "Where do you come from?" — "Cairo." — "Is there anything like this Xan at Cairo?" — "Certainly not." — "Or in London have you anything like that?" pointing to the tank in the centre, into which some crooked cocks of lead were dribbling their cloudy water by instalments. "No," said I, "not quite like it." — "What! have you no water about the town?" — "Not of that colour." "But have you no river?" — "Oh, yes, we have a river called the Thames, which will float a seventy-four into the city if need be." The Jew held his peace.

I verily believe these people are so engrossed with their own water, that they scarcely credit the existence of it elsewhere; and they still plume themselves as much upon the Abana and Pharpar as did Naaman

* The asses of Damascus stand fourteen hands high.

before them. Their places of resort for amusement are by the water-side: the most frequented *café* is built upon piles in the middle of the Abana, near the "Gate of Peace," and the operation of taking coffee there would be a very nervous one to a man who was not tolerably confident of his own swimming; for the planks over which you walk, and upon which you sit, are thin, rotten, and wide apart, while the river roars below and around you like a cataract. This fashionable rendezvous is of the meanest construction, and the commonest carpenter in England would be ashamed to put up such a shelter for his cow or his cart. The river here is about thirty-five yards across, the banks overgrown with willows, poplars, and other trees; which, together with the water, impart a coolness to the atmosphere, and atone for its deficiency in the more refined luxuries of Tortoni's. One day, as I was passing out of the gate to this *café*, a Turkish prisoner, or rather a deserter from the Turkish army, who was on guard, said within hearing of Ahmet, (spitting as he spoke,) "Beast that he is! but for these Franks I should never have stood here with a musket to my shoulder;" alluding

to the European tactics and discipline which have been introduced into the Turkish and Egyptian armies.

A very different feeling prevails among the Arab soldiers. An Egyptian of an infantry regiment came up to me one day, near the same spot, and patting me upon the back, said in an inquiring tone, "Inglees?"—"Iwer," (yes,) was answered; upon which his plaudits were beat in double-quick time upon my shoulder, and he continued his address with the strongest marks of approbation; "Inglees—tuyb, bono! tuyb katir!"*

Not far from this gate, on the opposite side of the river, is a garden hired by a Christian for the sale of fruits, where the Turks occasionally give *déjeûners*. It is furnished with two or three divans, abundance of roses and water; and if taste and labour were bestowed upon it, with the addition of society well selected, it might be made an inviting retreat. It is a place to wander in *not quite alone:* the fruit-trees, prodigal of their growth, form a labyrinth that suits with the placid enjoyments of our pastoral hours. The peaches, nectarines, and

* Equivalent to "bravo, bravissimo."

apricots, hang clustering from trees of timber: the plums, which are the old stock from whence come our *Damascenes*—and which, by the way, are well spoken of by Pliny—are more than double the size of those in England. There is also another plum, not known with us, round and very full of juice, containing a stone resembling that of a cherry. I visited this garden on a *festa*, when numbers of Christians were assembled in their holiday attire. Although the women came veiled, they uncovered their faces immediately on entering, but kept apart from the men in small groups; while the latter smoked, drank wine, or ate lettuces; and those more actively inclined amused themselves with leaping, or the sword-dance. In size, the roses are very inferior to our Damask rose, and less perfect in form; but the colour and odour are far more rich. The only variety existing in Damascus is a white rose, which appears to belong to the same species, differing in colour.

In the wall between the "Gate of Peace" and the "Gate of the Tombs" are many large blocks of stone of the ancient city, upon which are found several inscriptions in Arabic or Sarace-

nic character; and outside the gate leading to the Boræa,—vicinâ domo, sive ut rectius dicam mosquetâ dirutâ, nunc temporis tres extant cameræ parvissimæ, ubi tot santones, scilicet Idiotæ Turcici, vitam agunt. Cùm vero cuivis Turco non accidat filius, moris est illic uxorem deportare, illâque rem habet santon marito adstante, qui numen ut operi feliciter faveat, precatur. Santones nudo corpore vias perambulant; et si quis eorum quâlibet muliere miscere vult, probante gratoque marito voti summum consequitur.

Some distance to the east of the "Gate of the Tombs" is the "Gate of Sakleh," near to which is a tower, where tradition tells, and the zealous fondly believe, that St. Paul was let down from the window; but in reality no portion of the ancient wall remains, except a few foundation stones: for Tamerlane, having spared the city upon his first capture of it, A. D. 1400, on account of the splendour of its mosque, found upon his return from the conquest of Egypt that Damascus had revolted against him, and having inveigled the high priest of Mohammed into the mosque with three thousand of the people, he burnt them to a man; and

afterwards so utterly destroyed the town, that those who had hid their treasures before their flight could not recognise the spot upon their return. Damascus was rebuilt by the Sultan of Egypt, and placed under the Mamelukes.* Beyond the tombs, to the south, is the Boræa,—an open space near the Abana, which being sown with corn and shaded with magnificent walnut-trees, serves as a "jardin des Tuilleries" for the Damascenes of all creeds and sexes, who flock to the spot in great numbers, and sit either in rows or in irregular groups upon the brink, gazing at the river, as if they would catch coolness by sympathy of its rushing waters; a habit to which they are especially addicted when the stream is swoln by heavy rains, or the wasting snows of Anti-Lebanon. But men and women do not associate together, as it is not *comme il faut* to speak to a woman in public.

* Herold. Cont. Bell. Sac.

CHAPTER XXII.

Ahmet Bey.—Mr. Farren's Defence of a Greek.—Pacha's influence.—Rebellion against Mohammed Selim.—Dervish in a panther's skin.—Parliament of Damascus.—Beautiful Jewess.—Presented in some Christian Hareems by Padre Manoel.—Women of Damascus.—Sleeping Beauty.—Introduced to a Christian House by Mr. C. Farren.—Girls of great beauty.—Turkish Hareem.—Mode of Salutation in Damascus.—No damask now manufactured.—Aromatic waters.—House of Naaman the Syrian—now an Hospital for Lepers.—House of Ananias.

May 19th.

WENT to-day to pay my respects to Ahmet Bey, the vice-governor. In conformity with the request of Sheriff Bey, (or Beck, as the Damascus pronunciation has it,) Mr. Farren always appeared in the divan in European costume, laying aside the Turkish dress which he wore at other times; and upon this occasion the remarks made upon us as we passed along the streets, though heard only by the attendants, were anything but flattering. "Thank

God I am a Mussulman, and not one of those Infidels!—look at the beasts, the dogs!" Though no outward signs of violence appear, yet the bitterness of the inward feelings of the Mohammedans toward the Christians escapes them sometimes in their words; and they do not hesitate to say, that the present system may last for a time, but the day of retribution shall come.

The Bey wore neither shoes nor stockings, but was very civil. Mr. C. Farren, brother to the Consul-general, presented me; having some business to transact on behalf of a Greek, who, contrary to the law, had been selling wine and spirits in the Turkish quarter, and though warned to desist within five days, did not do so, and in consequence was bastinadoed, and his property destroyed. The Greek, however, was in possession of a teschere, certifying that he was a British subject, and maintained that he had read this to the Bey himself before he was beaten; which the latter as positively denied. If he could have proved this fact, the government would have indemnified him for the loss of his property, and perhaps have made him some compensation for his stripes: but he

prevaricated and contradicted himself so continually, that the charge could not be made good against the Bey.

This case, though abstractedly of little consequence, was yet of great political import, and will give the reader some idea of the remarkable change that has taken place wherever the Pacha's influence has extended. It was a strange anomaly, in a country where a few months before a hat would have subjected the wearer to assault and battery, to see an Englishman, in a blue coat and buff waistcoat, *with his hat upon his head*, bearding the chief officer of Damascus in his very den, and pleading the cause of a man whose claim to be an English subject was very equivocal; and the Bey at the same time admitting, that *if the accused had made known that he was such* before his punishment, it would not have been inflicted, though he was acting in direct violation of those laws by which every other man in the country is bound. This affair being one of delicacy, as affecting the governor's authority, the guards, attendants, and all persons unconcerned were ordered to withdraw. My servant retired to the guard-room near the divan, where were also some Damascenes, who

said that Ahmet Bey was a good Mussulman at bottom, and could not endure the sight of the Franks; at which the Egyptian officers laughed heartily.

The virulence of the Damascus feeling is a burlesque even upon prejudice. At the beginning of 1832, Mohammed Selim, Pacha of Damascus, gave offence to the people by ordering the *streets to be cleaned.* It was considered to be an *European innovation,* and a rebellion ensued. The Pacha defended himself gallantly in the castle with a few followers for three weeks, but despairing of relief, fell by his own hand. His head was carried upon a lance to the Franciscan convent, and thrown into the court, with this label attached—"Here's your friend." Mohammed Selim was a great favourite with the Sultan, and had been his chief coadjutor in the destruction of the Janissaries: he was appointed to Damascus as a fit person to quell the rebellious spirit of the people.

A dervish, clad in a panther's skin, who was of the party in the guard-room, drew a rude figure like a boat upon paper for one of the soldiers, which, if the latter wore it with *perfect faith,* would serve as a panoply, and make

him bullet-proof. The dervish received eight piastres for the sketch.

Damascus is now furnished with a parliament of twenty members; and such is the liberality of the Egyptian policy, that one of these is a Jew, the richest of his caste, blessed also with a beautiful daughter, a "Jessica," who occasionally is seen sitting under a certain weeping willow at the water-side, her head glittering with diamonds, but far less brilliant than her eyes! I know not whether she had been taught to expect that "there would cŏme a Christian by should be worth a Jewess' eye," or had noted it by custom; but toward the evening she was wont to be found near the willow; and a Christain of my acquaintance, well knowing her *whereabout*, did use to be led, as if unconsciously, to the spot; when his devotion was repaid by a glance from her full dark eyes, aided by little enigmatical signs of the fingers, which in the East convey as much as could be contained in the neatest three-cornered note of any colour in Europe. This Christian befriended me during my *there-remain* in Scham,* and spared no pains to point out everything worthy

* The present name of Damascus.

of attention; and having nothing to fear from me in the way of treachery or rivalry, he took me to the willow to see the Jewess.

The women of Damascus are difficult to obtain a sight of *at home*, even in the Christian quarter, where they are guarded with nearly as much severity as among the Turks. Still they *will* stand at the doors, or sometimes open the windows, and uncover their faces, if they have no disinclination that the passer should see them. The females of a family in Christian houses are not presented to strangers. When knocking at the door, the etiquette is, to ask from without, "Is the master of the house at home?" If answered "No," you depart. But a privileged person, as a relation, monk, or hakkim, without any preliminary, cries out "Ephatha," (open,) and walks in.

I fortunately had some interest with Padre Manoel, a lively, laughing Spanish monk, who presented me in several of the Christian hareems. The exterior of each house, being of mud, has a low rude doorway to the street. Within is a spacious court, provided with a fountain in the centre, the surrounding walls of stone being black and white,

or red and white, alternately barred. On the south side of the court is a recess raised nearly two feet, spread with mats, and against the wall broad cushions four inches thick are laid, with others more full for the back to lean against. The recess, open to the north, is painted in every part with unmeaning kaleidoscope patterns, and coarsely gilded : the minor divans are also furnished with a fountain, and painted in the gaudiest Oriental fashion. In the largest houses are frequently two divans in the same apartment,

"With pictured roof and marble floor;"

the fountain standing in the centre between them, while the space around it is inlaid with *pietra dura*, ill executed; and upon entering the court, the females are seen scuttling off in wooden clogs, a foot high, held over the instep by a piece of leather thickly studded with silver tacks.

The women of Damascus are small but extremely beautiful, with hair of glossy black fair complexions, and eyes whose brightness streams upon and dazzles the beholder, who, thus rendered defenceless, is exposed to an unerring shaft. Though sometimes black, their

eyes are more frequently of a deep blue: but not as in our northern regions, where the full dark eyes and raven locks of the brunette indicate a morbid pulse and frigid temperament; these, fired by their genial sun, glow, and speak, and breathe of passion; and those inquiring looks, which among European belles seem to be a laboured science, in them are the coruscations of nature, gleaming, penetrating, and warming, like the fierce beams that dart from the cloudless sky, in

"The climes of the East, and the land of the Sun;"

and then they have withal such laughing faces, that their life should seem to be perpetual May. But it is their supreme bliss never to have courted the "folly" of wisdom: with minds entirely uncultivated, they appear scarcely capable of understanding the plainest proposition; for the monk, when lamenting to me their lost and unintellectual condition, said, that even compliments paid to their beauty were unintelligible to them; and these being the rudiments of knowledge in the "young ladies' book," it is to be supposed they know nothing.

In one house eight of these fair things were

collected expecting our arrival, of which they had been previously apprised by the monk. When we entered the court, we found them throwing water upon the pavement and each other; but on seeing us they desisted, and scampered away laughing to the hareem. Padre Manoel went his way, and I strolled through the divans, of which there were three. In one of them, a lovely girl about sixteen was sleeping out her siesta upon the cushions, with a Kashmere thrown over her. A babe reposed upon the snowy breast where late it fed; and the infantine mother slept so sound, so softly and so free from care, that it seemed unkindness to wake her to the world again: yet the deep azure of her eyes shining through their transparent lids excited so lively a curiosity to see them open, that I doubt if even Cymon's nascent "good manners" would not have given way, had such an Iphigenia slumbered in his path.

Having taken our seats in one of the divans, the whole party made their appearance. In their dresses, plain and embroidered silk predominated, and seemed to form part of all that was external and visible. The trousers, very

long and full, are worn close at the ankle; the bust low in front, exposing the bosom, and over it is an embroidered robe in the manner of a surtout, with sleeves to the wrist, slashed and open from the elbow downwards. The turban is set rather on one side, festooned with strings of pearls, enriched with brooches of turquoise and emeralds. A Kashmere or Bagdad* scarf is wound loosely round the waist, and a little yellow slipper or a small white foot is seen below. I cannot like their painted toe-nails. Of these eight houris, nearly all were either married or betrothed, although the eldest was only seventeen. The prettiest of them was a spinster ripened by eleven summers, who, from her budding promise of maturity, might have passed in Europe for sixteen, though small of sta-

* These have a white ground upon which pine-apples or bouquets of flowers are worked in straw-coloured silk: they are sixteen or seventeen feet long, and a yard wide. I bought the two richest that were to be met with in Damascus, which were afterwards *cut to pieces* in the *douâne* at Vienna. Lempriere's Dictionary, and two volumes of Linnæus, being *suspected books*, were taken at the same time. The loss of the latter I was grieved at; for having accompanied me in Sicily, Egypt, Palestine, and Greece, they contained several manuscript references to the "*habitat*" of different plants, which were interesting to myself, and could be of little value to the Emperor.

ture. She was not yet betrothed; a circumstance unusual in that country, where *mothers* oft times tell fewer years than Lady Capulet.* As they entered, each kissed the holy father's hand; when some ran off to do the honours of the house, and the rest stayed to converse with us, which they did without reserve, laughing, and asking questions of the customary Oriental tenor. Pipes having been brought, soon after came water full of sugar, and then coffee, black and bitter, without any; sugar-plums, pastry, and in conclusion, rakkee.

In one house I was pressed to eat a substance resembling tow in colour and appearance, which seemed to be a *compote* of sugar, honey, flour, and eggs, and, I have little doubt, would have had the effect of ipecacuanha, if I had not been favoured with an opportunity of putting the greater part of my allowance in my pocket.

The time flew apace that we laughed away

* According to the Rabbis, the prescribed age of the wife to be married by the Jewish High Priest was between twelve years and one day, and twelve years and a half. Selden, Ux. Heb. l. 2, c. 7.

with these *bijoux;* and I inquired afterwards of my Mentor what had become of all the men of the family; to which he replied, that "he had *ordered* them to be absent." I do not mention this fact to draw any undue censure on the good friar individually, but to give some idea of the authority that is usurped, from which evil consequences *might* ensue.

Mr. C. Farren introduced me to a house said to be the most splendid in the Christian quarter, where we saw two girls, I believe daughters of the proprietor, who had faces of surpassing beauty. Their hair, of the blackest dye, fell down their backs to the waist, concealing their marble shoulders in its "hyacinthine flow:" their eyes, "large and languishingly" blue, something richer than the turquoise, something brighter than the "jewel of Giamschid," lighted up complexions clear as æther; and the *vermeille* blossoms of the pomegranate would lose in comparison with the blushes that bloomed upon their cheeks.

In a Turk's house where I was presented, the room about the fountain was flooded ankle deep, so that we could not reach the divan until a sluice had been pulled up, and the water let

off: but this was of no consequence to the party within, who wore neither shoes nor stockings; we found them smoking, drinking wine, and eating lettuces. Several women were in the court as we entered, who slowly moved off into the garden. The Frank dress seemed to excite their curiosity, and they gave ample opportunity to be seen; at which the Turk was very indignant, and ordered them to hasten their march.

The mode of salutation in visiting at Damascus is pleasing; but the constant repetition soon wears off the outward gloss, and it becomes tiresome. The right hand, by a rapid motion, seems to touch the heart, the lips, and the forehead;* by which is expressed, "I will serve you with heart, word, and life." This exercise is gone through upon first entering the divan, and repeated with every fresh cup of coffee, both before and after drinking it, as well as with the brandy, pipes, and sugar-plums: it is likewise used when a compliment is paid, or a civil thing said; so that if a visit lasts an hour, and the

* The form of greeting and expressing thanks is very similar throughout the East; but I have never seen it continually repeated as in Damascus.

company are facetious, the right arm has no idle time.

A durable stuff is manufactured here; the warp of which is of silk, but the shuttle carries a fine sort of cotton woof, probably the "*gossipina lina*," for which Damascus has been celebrated by Pliny and other writers; but nothing can be more rude than the machinery by which it is formed. No cloth is made which bears the least resemblance to what is called in England "damask."

The aromatic waters are still produced, such as extract of cloves, cinnamon, and orange, and the scents of them are odious, notwithstanding all that Michael Aitsinger has said in their favour; but they are not in such abundance as when Ariosto wrote—

"Dicesi ancor che *macinar molini*,
Potrian far l' acque lanfe che son quivi."

The largest vender of these commodities had a great variety, but in small quantities: among them was an essence from India, the odour of which was more fœtid than assafœtida. The attar ghul is of the finest quality, and though not so pure in colour as that of Adrianople, is yet not inferior in strength and scent;

and both are superior to that of Constantinople.*

The influence of the Christians in Damascus is remarkable; for while Friday and Saturday, the Turkish and Jewish sabbaths, are days of labour, on Sunday no business is transacted.

In a small street not far from the Latin convent is a house said to be that of Naaman the Syrian, which has been set apart by the Turks as an hospital for lepers. Having great curiosity to see the disorder, I went to this lazarette. A narrow court, of no great length, has a series of small chambers round it; but none of the cases about the yard were of a very malignant kind. Of those unhappy sufferers whom I saw, the faces were swollen and bloated, and covered with white scurf; so also were their hands, but more particularly the knuckle-joints. As the disorder is taken by contact, and the patients are at liberty to walk about the court, the visitor has no security for coming out safe.

Not far from this hospital is the supposed

* I purchased a considerable quantity of this essence at each of the above places, which fell into the *doudne* at Vienna.

house of Ananias; the only remnant of which is a *souterrain*, differing in no respect from a common stone-built vault. It was used as a place of prayer by the Turks; but the Latin convent has purchased it of the government, —although, in the present unsettled state of things, the superior cannot get possession of it.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Depa-ture from Scham.—Salhiah.—View of the City from the side of Anti-Lebanon.— Traverse the Banks of the Barrada. — Pitch the Tent under a Precipice. — Halt in the morning near Anhoo. — Ascend Anti-Lebanon again.—Plain of Bocat.—Yellow Rose.—Balbec — Notice of — Its Antiquity questioned. — Immense Stones in the Wall. — Money claimed by the Arabs. — Column in the Plain of Bocat. — Deer el Ahmar. — Metawallies. — Trees on side of Lebanon.—Bivouac near Snow.—Lake Limone.

May 25.

No one being willing to convey me to Palmyra, except under the protection of a strong escort, I left Damascus in disappointment not unmingled with feelings of regret; for the kindness and attention of Mr. C. Farren, added to the amusement derived from the society of the lively Spanish monk, made the days too brief. I went heavily from Scham, as it had been my home, and took my way toward Balbec, and the plain of Bocat; which, by the way, has been erroneously supposed to join

the plain of Esdraelon. Having traversed the country from Tyre to the lake of Tiberias, between which points it must pass if it is uninterrupted, no such plain appears, but a continual succession of low mountains.

After slowly making our way through the long crowded bazaars, we reached the gardens of towering fruit-trees which enclose the city on the north-west side, where a broad but ill-paved road leads to Salhiah, a suburb little more than a mile from the gate, extending along the foot of Anti-Lebanon, watered by the Abana, and shaded by the orange, the citron, the pomegranate, and the rose. Here we began to ascend the mountain, from whence the city is seen, prodigally enriched by nature, and outwardly glittering; and when contrasted with the desolateness that surrounds it, and the corruption of all within, stands a fit emblem of those cities of the plain whose position was similar, and whose guilt scarcely greater. Hæc urbs, si quæ alia, ad libidines abominandas dedita. Pueros puellarum ritu vestitos, in viis saltare vidimus: necnon in diversoriis apertis, pudore, pudicitiâque amissâ, eosdem brachiis inclusos, Christianis haud secus ac Turcis, labra osculis

premere. Aliis orientalibus in urbibus, hic et iste perditus monstratur digito. Damasco autem pæne omnes delictum fatentur.

At half an hour we descended into a narrow winding valley, through which runs the broad and rapid Barrada; and following the course of it till sunset, pitched at the foot of a precipice five hundred feet in height, whose rocks were pierced with numerous grottoes; while detached pieces, that had broken away from the top and rolled down, lay around and below us in great numbers, some of which were many times larger than the tent; and had one such been tempted to migrate during the night, and set foot upon us in its way, the whole party must have been extinguished. Supped upon rice, kid, and coffee; and lay down to sleep upon stones, whose angles were more acute than stones ought to be that form a bed.

We resumed our journey one hour before sunrise, the air keen as November; and crossing the river by a stone bridge of one arch, where it was hurrying through a narrow gorge and tumbling in a cataract below, we entered a ravine to the north-east, hemmed in on each side by barren heights, whence the melting snow

poured down and spread itself over the thin patches of stunted corn. Soon after we skirted a village surrounded by well-watered enclosures, planted with vines, mulberries, and other fruit-trees.

At five hours halted in a plain one mile from the village of Anhoo,—by this time the sun had tempered the severity of the morning, notwithstanding the snowy tops of Anti-Lebanon were near us,—and we sat down to breakfast. Coffee, combined with banishment from society, begets an aptitude to muse and moralize: there is a serenity that settles upon the spirit and distends the heart in those moments, when without brooding upon the past, and happy in the present, the mind raises for itself an animating vision of the future, and finds in solitude "a bliss" which it cannot be said

"'Twere woe alone to bear."

I found the *Veronica spicata* here. The water which descended from the mountain sides had hitherto run toward the south: one hour beyond this place it takes a north-easterly course, and meets another torrent two hours farther which comes from the eastward; and when thus combined, they run westward to the great plain

between the two opposing chains of Lebanon. Near the junction of these torrents we passed over a stone bridge, and began to ascend again the mountain steeps, from whose summit we looked down upon the plain of Bocat, spread like a carpet to the foot of Lebanon, the sides of which, unlike the barren ridge from whence we viewed them, were clothed with timber, while its heights were veiled in snow. Descending gradually, we kept along the low hills for four hours, holding a direction north-west.

In taking this shorter route, the guide had deviated from the usual track, which would have led us immediately into the plain; but losing his way, we were reduced to travel by compass, and compelled to traverse much difficult ground, where several ravines occurred, which were great impediments to speed with our laden animals. In the plain, not long before we reached Balbec, I observed a creeping rose of a bright yellow colour in full bloom.

The modern village of Balbec, when seen from a distance, has the appearance of greater importance than it is entitled to; but straggling over a considerable area of ground, and bristling

with minarets, it must once have contained a much larger population than it does at present. It was rated by Wood, in 1751, at five thousand: I do not think it could now produce fifteen hundred souls. There are a few Christians, and a priest of the Greek church, to whom I had been directed to apply for lodging and entertainment. From this good man I met with a *warm* reception; for, instead of admitting us into his wretched hovel, he let fly a volley of maledictions, giving us to understand that his house was for the accommodation of *Christians*, and *not for such as we were*. He probably supposed us to be Roman Catholics, as we had come from the Latin convent at Damascus. I could not help laughing, and desired Ahmet to call him a *pig;* which added fuel to his feelings, more particularly as the Arabs took part with me, and joined in the laugh. In front of his house was a piece of clean turf, upon which we made our settlement.

Within a hundred and fifty yards were the stately ruins of Heliopolis, raised upon an artificial platform of vast extent, and enclosed within a wall that dates its formation from various ages. In wandering through these pro-

digious colonnades, and scanning the stupendous shafts surmounted by their rich capitals, an awe comes over the mind, and fetters its discriminating powers; but no sooner does the fancy find scope to soar, and the judgment recover its freedom, than it sees through the imposture, and feels that it has been duped or bullied into an impression which it instantly renounces. I know not whether it is owing to the preposterous proportions which the moderns have admitted into the Corinthian order, or whether these temples are the craft of an aspiring architectural glutton without taste or genius, that they give birth to no intellectual emotions in the soul. Bigness without dignity, space without spaciousness, and gloominess without solemnity, are their most prominent characteristics. In dimensions, the largest of these is inferior to the Doric temple of Jupiter Olympius at Girgente; but in sublimity and symmetry of proportion, who would compare the most perfect of them with Juno Lacinia or the Parthenon? When set beside these, it is as the Achilles of Hyde Park to the Apollo of the Vatican. The best of these temples conveys the idea of a great playhouse; and perhaps there

is no species of building for which the modern Corinthian order is so well adapted. Disdaining the chaste and feminine* adornment of the Ionic mother from which she sprung, she stands tricked like a harlot, to catch and captivate the passing eye. Her loftiness bespeaks the extravagance for which the people were notorious whose name she bears; and the florid wreath upon her brow is the index of their levity. The votary of science will sit for hours, as if spell-bound, before the godlike wreck upon the Acropolis, idolizing the mighty genius which could foresee the effect of a masterly limitation of space and altitude in his production; but among the prodigies of Balbec, when the first *coup* of astonishment is over, one stares and wonders, and walks away.

A detailed account of these ruins has been given by Wood, Maundrell, Chester, and others; and the result, therefore, of my measurements would only be a repetition of their observations. The proportions of the Corinthian,† in its purest æra, differed in nothing from the Ionic, except in the increased depth of its capital. The height of the column in both orders comprised sixteen modules, which suc-

* Vid. Vitruv. † Id.

ceeding architects increased to seventeen; but the modern school have admitted eighteen. Some of the columns at Balbec comprise even more; an adaptation of still later invention. There is, moreover, a peculiarity in the entablature of these edifices which denotes an origin posterior to the Augustan age; viz. the modillion supporting the corona upon the cornice, of which Vitruvius makes no mention, stating expressly that the Corinthian order has no ornament, except upon its capital, peculiar to itself; all being borrowed from the Doric and Ionic, as mutules and triglyphs in the architrave, or an Ionic frieze with dentels in the cornice, &c. The Pæcile at Athens was finished in strict conformity with this rule, no modillion being found on the entablature; and it is most likely that the Pantheon *was* similarly constructed; for, as Agrippa supplied the funds, Vitruvius himself would probably overlook the plan of the building; and had the modillion been used at that time, he could not have omitted to mention it in a work treating of architecture: and we may conclude, therefore, that the modillion now existing upon the entablature of the Rotonda was added when the building was re-

stored by Adrian, after its partial destruction by lightning. The modillion has been introduced upon the Maison Carrée at Nismes— the most entire specimen of a Roman Corinthian temple extant, and M. Séguier has pronounced it to be Augustan; but the bases and overloaded entablature, the ornaments of which do not correspond with the columns, would lead the antiquary to refer it to the Antonine æra.

The buildings at Balbec display no evidence of remote antiquity, but the contrary; and the most probable conjecture is, that the loftiest, if not all of them, is the work of Antoninus Pius, who is related by John of Antioch to have built a temple there to Jupiter.

An immense stone, which remains cut out in the quarry half a mile south-south-west of the temple, gave exactly the following measurements: length, sixty-eight feet; width, thirteen feet eight inches and a half; depth, thirteen feet ten inches: and there are three of the same dimensions found actually in the wall of the enclosure round the ruins. These stones are supposed by some to have been laid by the *Devil;* others attribute their removal to King Solomon: but there appears to be no necessity for applying

preternatural power, or searching back into an age so remote, when we find that the masses used by Herod in the foundation of the mole at Cæsarea were little inferior in dimensions, and transported from distant quarries, whereas those at Heliopolis were cut upon the spot.

Among the sculptures that adorn the interior of the temples, divers of the Greek and Roman divinities are found; and besides these, the winged globe is represented, evincing the leaven of Egyptian mythology.

In examining these remains I met with no interruption; and a single Arab of the place, who attended to assist me in measuring, was contented with the trifle he received for his services. But on returning to the baggage, I found Ahmet beset by a party demanding money, which they pretended was for the Sheik of Balbec. Upon my repairing to the divan in order to ascertain the truth of this assertion, the latter disclaimed all knowledge of the affair, but said it was customary for travellers to pay for the inspection of the ruins, though no one had a right to enforce it. I mentioned to him the Pacha's wish that no money should be extorted from those passing

through his dominions; and added, that there could be no better time than the present for the practice to cease at Balbec. I met with no further trouble. Travellers have usually been compelled to pay ten or twelve dollars for the privilege of seeing these remains, which are open to the visits of the wolves and jackals, and mutilated by the Arabs.

Left Balbec before mid-day, and crossed the plain obliquely to the north-west toward Lebanon. Half-way between Heliopolis and the mountains, a column or obelisk stands like the meta of a circus, two miles to the left of the road, with a Corinthian capital and base; and high up on the shaft is a small inscription, the letters of which are nearly effaced. A few huts, inhabited by Maronites, rest upon the foot of Lebanon; and near them are some ruins, called Deer-el-Ahmar, which seem to mark the site of a convent. The sides of Lebanon hereabout are infested by a tribe called Metawallies; a race of Arab mountaineers, who, having been brought up with enlarged views of the rights of man, frame their conduct accordingly, to the great loss of the caravans and unprotected travellers who may pass near them.

After three hours spent in crossing the plain from Balbec, we commenced the ascent by a ravine covered with ilex, small shrubs, and pollard oaks, mutilated by the Arabs, who return every spring to convert into charcoal the loppings of the preceding year. Ascending gradually for two hours, we reached a steep ridge, beyond which the mountain becomes rocky and barren, producing a few almonds, and thorns bearing a bright pink flower, which spread themselves upon the ground, or run over the trees near them like a creeper. One hour after this we crossed a precipitous ravine, and pitched before sunset upon the high ridge of Lebanon, where a clear and icy stream was pouring down from the snow fifty yards above us; and a fine walnut-tree, spreading over a patch of grass, gave promise of repose after the day's fatigue:

"Ours the cool turf, and not the feverish bed."

This part of the mountain abounds in juniper, barberries, and other plants, with the names of which I was unacquainted; and a great quantity of rhubarb grew at the very edge of, and even under, the snow. It was not possible to pass during the day; for the surface

of the snow, which in the course of the night was frozen hard enough to carry the baggage animals, would not bear the lighter weight and less penetrating foot of man after the sun had been upon it for half an hour. While the preparations were making for supper I strolled out, hoping that some game might lurk among the thickets of the mountain side, where boars, partridges, and deer abound. In this I was disappointed; but my walk was well rewarded, for, besides the abstract enjoyment of wandering on the side of Lebanon, I was gratified by the sight of a beautiful little lake lying one league south-west of our bivouac, in the very heart of the mountains, which rose around it from the water's edge. This I suppose to be the lake called Limone by Maundrell, who ascended from the plain by a route to the westward of that which I followed.

As the sun disappeared, the cold became intense, and wood was heaped upon the fire more liberally than was usual at our night-halts. Trunks of trees, cut down by the Arabs long before, were laid crosswise upon each other, and kept up a blaze that might make even the snow tremble for its existence. The light drew

to the spot a Metawally, who seated himself, and became a sociable companion. Having made him a present of a pipe and some tobacco as an acknowledgment of his social qualifications, he gave me in return a bundle of rhubarb, and, peeling one of the stalks, said that it was eaten in great quantities by the natives without any other preparation. He had crossed the mountain for the purpose of collecting it; and was now waiting for the snow to harden, that he might repass with his loaded asses. Asking permission to remain for the night by the fire, he offered his services to strengthen our guard, and undertook to lead us by a short cut over the snow, which would save us much time in reaching the cedars. When cautioning us to be upon the snow two hours before day, he said that if the sun should overtake us before we had cleared it, we should be lost; a catastrophe which had happened both to men and horses lately, in consequence of attempting to pass it after sunrise.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Hardness of Snow.—Scilla Italica.—First view of Cedars.—Danger of losing Mules in Snow.—Maronite Village of Schirrey.—Village Church.—Handsome persons of Vlilagers. — Ear-rings. — Tantoura, the exalted Horn of Scripture.—Wine.—Mulberries.—"Fountain of Gardens." "Mountain of Leopards."—Tomb of Joshua.—Tripoli.—Moosellim.—Turkish Tombs.—Cows slaughtered.—Marina of Tripoli.—Departure for Latikia.—Entomologist.—Serpent Fountain.—Ruad.—Tartoose.—Ismeyley Druses.

May 28.

In the morning the Metawally, who had not deserted us, assisted in loading the mules; but before the task was completed he disappeared among the bushes, and we saw no more of him, having no proof beyond his own assertion that his employment was gathering rhubarb.

The snow, hard as marble, was very slippery, and for some distance not more than a foot deep, except in a ravine on the left of our track, which was so filled as to be marked only by a

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slightly concave surface. We crossed this ravine near the top, where it was a hundred yards wide; and a small patch on the opposite side being kept clear of snow by the swampy nature of the ground, from whence a rill took its rise, served to show that the sun had influence even in this cold region, for the *Vinca minor* and the delicate little *Scilla Italica* were in flower. The ridge of snow upon the actual summit, forty feet in height, was narrow; the east side being almost perpendicular, like a wall. Under this we proceeded for a short distance to the north before we could ascend, and then crossed it obliquely. From hence the cedars were visible two miles and a half to the north-west, in a small clump considerably below the summit of the mountain, which here bays round, and forms the head of a magnificent valley.

The east was purpled by the sun, whose disk now edging the horizon, warned us to hasten forward, that we might escape before the snow should become too soft to bear us. The necessity for accelerating our pace was apparent at each step. The surface, hitherto hard, was now growing loose, and would not support the

weight of the mules, which, sinking to their knees, trembled at every joint, as if aware of their danger. It was with the utmost difficulty we could get them to move; for, hanging back, and stretching out their necks to examine with the eye and nostril the treacherous path, their instinct reproached us for having placed them in such peril, while they pleaded to be allowed the use of their sagacity to extricate themselves. But the great danger was in delay; and changing their order, we brought one forward which was less timid than the leader, when we proceeded more rapidly. The snow was now giving fast; and the animals, sinking to their shoulders, scrambled, plunged, and lay prostrate until we could ease up their burthens and enable them to rise, when they struggled forward a few steps to fall again. We were ourselves at times engulphed to the middle, or, falling through with one leg, avoided a further immersion by crawling horizontally to firmer footing; and in this manner we laboured on until we arrived among the bare rocks of the mountain.

Ahmet being sent forward with the mules, I took the muleteer as a guide, and crossed a

small valley of snow toward the cedars. These trees, three hundred and sixty in number, stand near together in a clump, the ground being elevated into irregular mounds. Twenty-three of the largest measure from thirty to forty feet in girth, but many of these have more than one stem: the younger boles are sound and healthy. Several of the branches had been broken off by the weight of the snow, which still lay six feet deep beneath them.

From hence to the village of Schirrey is one hour, and the road so steep, rugged, and narrow, as to be scarcely passable. Surrounded with vines and olives, this hamlet is picturesquely planted upon the edge of a ravine, the opposite side of which rises perpendicularly from an abyss below to an immense height; and the cascades falling among the trees upon the higher parts of the mountain, pitch over the precipice in far grander style than that of the Vallais, the altitude of the rocks being here much greater. The villagers, who were Maronites, showed us some civility; but there were not sufficient indications of cleanliness to induce me to remain among them, and having bought a small quantity of milk, we proceeded

up the mountain-side for a short distance, and halted near a torrent, where we made coffee at eight o'clock A.M.

The road onward continued to slant up the mountain-side for an hour and a half, and then descended for two hours to another Maronite village, whose church, shaded by fine walnut-trees, stood upon a piece of smooth turf, where a crowd of children, just let loose from school, were taking their noisy pastime, clean, vigorous, and happy. The men, light but athletic in person, were dressed in the striped abbas common to the country, with the party-coloured vest, and long full trousers; and a cotton shawl bound round the waist carried the attaghan, or coarse broad dagger of the East. The turban is of every colour except green and white, which are sacred to the Moslem. The women were straight, graceful, and handsome; yet there is throughout the East a certain pendent propensity in the breast, conspicuous through the transparent vest that only half conceals it, which mars the charms even of youth, and nauseates the sight where it should rest with pleasure. Their apparel consists of an outer pelisse, open in front, reaching to the

ankle, fringed with silk cord, and having sleeves to the elbow: under this is another robe, with sleeves open to the wrist: a shawl round the waist, long full trousers, with painted toes, or yellow slippers, complete the costume. But the most remarkable peculiarities of their dress are the immense silver ear-rings hanging forward upon the neck, and the tantoura, or "horn," which supports the veil. This latter ornament varies in form, material, and position, according to the dignity, taste, and circumstances of the wearer. They are of gold, silver gilt, or silver, and sometimes of wood. The former are either plain or figured in low relief, and occasionally set with jewels; but the length and position of them is that upon which the traveller looks with the greatest interest, as illustrating and explaining a familiar expression of Scripture. The young, the rich, and the vain, wear the tantoura of great length, standing straight up from the top of the forehead; whereas the humble, the poor, and the aged, place it upon the side of the head, much shorter, and spreading at the end like a trumpet. I do not mean to say that these distinctions are universal, but I was told that they are very

general; and thus the "exalted horn"* still remains a mark of power and confidence, as it was in the days of Israel's glory. Bruce saw the same head-dress in Abyssinia, but worn only by the grandees upon state occasions.

The men of this village pressed me to remain for the day, and perhaps hoped to tempt me by the excellence of their wine, which they produced liberally, and which we drank freely. It was strong, red, and rich, of a fine scent† and flavour, resembling the wines of Vesuvius more than those of any other European vineyard that I am acquainted with. The kind manners and energetic carriage of these people, when contrasted with the surly lethargic habits and reckless indigence of those whom I had only a few hours before left on the other side of the mountain, afforded a striking instance, that where industry prevails, the flowers of happiness will blossom, and abundance ever be the fruit.

The chief employment of these villagers is the cultivation of mulberries for the produce of silk; and I questioned them about the method

* 1 Sam. ii. Ps. lxxv. and cxxxii. Job, xvi. 15.

† Vide Hosea, xiv. 7.

of hatching the eggs of the worm by placing them near the body, which has been alluded to by some travellers: but they neither practised it themselves, nor had they ever heard of it; and my inquiries at Beirout, and in other parts of Syria, met with no more satisfactory answers. At Antioch I was told by a large dealer in silk, that the young worms, when newly hatched, are sometimes carried about the body, in order that they may be brought more forward by this increased heat.

The road beyond this place sometimes presents a series of naturally formed stairs, which geologists call "trap;" and it is certainly very *catching* ground for equestrians. The descent continues without intermission for three hours; at the end of which a wide and rapid stream flows toward Tripoli, through a ravine, the sides of which are overspread with vineyards, or gardens of mulberries, apricots, and pomegranates. This is supposed* to be the "fountain of gardens and streams from Lebanon," of which figurative mention is made in the Canticles. The author of the Itinerary believes a part of the range two leagues to the

* Broc. It is placed nearer to Sour by Will. of Tyre, vii. 22.

right to be the "mountain of leopards," mentioned in the same chapter; at the northern base of which exists a cavern, containing a tomb twenty-five feet long, which the Saracens used to claim for Joshua; but as he was buried in Ephraim,* the above writer transfers it to Canaan, son of Shem.

The approach to Tripoli from Damascus lies through extensive olive-grounds; and the sides of Lebanon beyond them are enriched with vineyards, where are seen some convents, and the mansions of the mountain chiefs crowning the heights. This town, named from its tripartite division, or from the three states of Tyre, Sidon, and Aradus, which contributed to its foundation, is concealed by an abrupt brow on which stands the castle. The present Moosellim having risen from the lowest grade through deeds of blood, continued to hold here his authority as a scourge and terror to those within his grasp, until the Pacha lately checked his arm; though his thirst for cruelty does not appear to have subsided. He had been a

* Josh. xxiv. The tomb of Abel, near Damascus, is little short of one hundred feet long, and supposed by the monks to have been adjusted to his stature.

menial servant to his predecessor, whom he had butchered, together with several members of his family; and being powerfully supported by his friends from the mountains, had seized the castle, and made good his usurpation of the government. It was evening when we reached the house of the British Consul, who was from home; and having sought in vain through the town for shelter, we retraced our steps, and passing out by the same gate, pitched in a Turkish burying-ground beyond.

Soon after sunrise many women brought out their matutine offering of flowers, to decorate the last beds of their departed friends. But these were not the least pleasing images under which death was destined to be set before me. Opposite to our bivouac, distant only a few paces, were two olive-trees; and the heat of the sun making it impossible to remain within the tent, which had been incautiously pitched toward the east, I seated myself in front of it, and had scarcely sipped the first cup of coffee, when an unpleasant-looking Arab sought the shade of the trees near the spot, leading two cows, whose appearance did not betoken that they had devoted much of their spare

time to oil-cake and turnips. A long knife being drawn forth, received two or three rubs upon a piece of wood, when the animals were cast with their heads toward Mecca, and their throats being cut, the blood came streaming down nearly to the scene of my rural *déjeûner*, and would probably have reached it, but for the timely interposition of a host of gaunt half-famished dogs, who had mustered there upon the arrival of the cows; wagging their tails, and showing the most unequivocal signs of joy, as if they intuitively knew, or had been taught by past experience, the event that was to follow. These readily provided for those *very few* parts which are unfit for the use of an Arab; while the soldiers, with as much avidity, and as little delicacy, tore up and carried off the rest; and in less than an hour not a vestige of the cows remained, except the stains which marked the spot where the life had flowed from them.

Tripoli is situated about a league from the shore; and from the flat nature of the ground, hemmed in by the mountains, it appears that the sea must formerly have reached it. Near the town, to the northward, are some extensive sand-hills, which it has long been the fashion to

believe will one day swallow up Tripoli; but as centuries have elapsed without their advancing toward their prey, no immediate danger is to be apprehended. Near these mounds an old man had his station, to whom two asses belonged, which were continually plying backward and forward between the town and the Marina. They were "on a job" when I applied for them, but soon came back; and, attended by an Arab of the town, I rode slowly through a deep sand, among the gardens, to the port, to "peruse the traders." Upon our return, a huge captain from Livorno and his cockswain were waiting to freight the asses back. The Marina, standing upon a projecting land, forms a harbour difficult to enter, from the rocks and shoals which lie at its mouth; while it receives very trifling protection from two distant islands to the north-west. Upon the shore are magazines for warehousing silk and other articles of commerce, and the bazaars contain nothing beyond the necessaries of life.

While I was employed upon this excursion, the Consul's janissary was dispatched to procure horses for Latikia (Laodicea); and a bargain was made with a man *well known* to the Consul, and

thoroughly to be trusted. Two o'clock was the hour fixed for our departure; and upon his not appearing, I sent for the janissary to learn the cause, when it was ascertained that he had decamped with his horses, and I was obliged to search for others, a task of some difficulty at a period when the demands of the Pacha for beasts of burthen were urgent. Others were, however, found, and upon their arrival at the tent Ahmet intimated his wish to leave my service, under the plea that he was so ill he could with difficulty proceed: but he knew a tailor who would be ready to attend me immediately; and within half an hour I had engaged the latter.

Dimitrie by name, and a Greek by birth, my new lacquey was one who scorned to deviate from the established habits of his country by the adoption of any single virtue: his appetite and conceit were unbounded; the latter frequently moved my disgust, and indeed indignation, but the enormous quantity he would eat was so irresistibly laughable, that it was never long before the serenity of my temper was restored. Leaving Tripoli at sun-set, we had scarcely cleared the olive-grounds which extend to some distance on the north side,

when I met a French entomologist with whom I had made a short acquaintance at Jerusalem. He was returning from his sport, after having had a *brilliant day*. His bag consisted of two *cryptophagi* and a *coleopteron;* and he said that he should be induced to delay his departure, in order that he might continue to partake of the delightful recreation which the neighbourhood afforded. The greater portion of the time since we parted he had passed upon the sea, having been nearly three weeks in reaching Tripoli from Jaffa; and in order to arrive at Aleppo, where he had heard of some rare specimens of *nosodendra,* he intended to take ship for Scanderoon. Although the object of such a pilgrimage as his could only be attained on land, yet the difficulties of traversing the country had been represented to him in such glowing oriental colours, that he supposed it to be impracticable. We pitched at night near a Xan upon the right bank of a small stream, where a detachment of dragoons had made their bivouac.

Moving before sun-rise, we rode through a fine grass country, crossing a few streams, and skirting some swamps; and at three hours came

upon a deserted village, the inhabitants having taken to their tents, and gone to a distance, as the custom is during the summer months. The village, standing upon a mound, was surrounded by thistles, strong and lofty as those of the Pampas, among which was a thick spreading oak; and a clear stream running by the place, refreshed us with its murmurs, as we boiled our kettle under the shade of the tree. Beyond is a well-watered grass country; and at three hours we entered a myrtle wood which extends for some miles along the shore, where traces of an ancient town are visible in the ruins which lie scattered about the coppice. A small stream, called *the serpent fountain*, runs through it, near to which, on the left, is the base of a large sarcophagus,* built of immense stones, surmounted by an ornamental coping or *torus;* and a short distance to the right are two pieces of column that appear to have stood in front of a building, of which vestiges are still seen behind; there are, besides these, other remnants of the bases of towers.

While the horses and their guardians reposed

* The dimensions of these sepulchres have been fully given by Maundrell. I did not measure them.

among the myrtles, I revelled for a time in the sea. We caught here two large land tortoises, which I would gladly have converted into soup; but my Greek being uninitiated in such culinary mysteries, and moreover half afraid of the creatures, I was obliged to release them. Something less than a league from the shore, at a short distance south of Tartoose, is the island of Ruad, the "Arpad" of Scripture, one of the Canaanitish settlements, whose king Sennacherib reduced. By the Greeks it was called Aradus; and according to Dionysius was formerly joined to the continent by a bridge. The island, half a league in circumference, is partly covered by the town; and many pieces of the wall which formerly encircled it still exist, consisting of large blocks of stone set up uncemented, together with the ruins of some square towers of more modern date.

To the right of the road, on the south side of Tartoose, are the remains of a church, having several pointed windows. The town is enclosed within a high wall, irregularly built of stone or marble, protected by a foss, which in some parts is cut in the solid rock. Passing the town wall, we lodged for the night upon a

piece of turf beyond the arch of an old gateway; near to which are the ruins of the chapel or refectory of a convent, or perhaps those of a Christian church, having several lancet windows remaining. There are also some remains close to the sea, on the north side of the town, where appears to be the arch of a gateway opening to the port. Some Arabs visited the tent, and seated themselves by the fire: to what religion they adhered did not appear, but they spoke in no high terms of the Druses, who, belonging to the Ismeyley sect, or worshippers of Venus, inhabit the neighbouring district.

I left this place three hours after midnight, intending to reach Latikia, if possible, that evening. The distance had been differently represented; some calling it twelve hours, some fifteen, others eighteen; while by some it was stated at two days, and according to the Arab mode of travelling, the last account proved to be correct; but all agreed in describing the road as infested by robbers, and very unsafe.

CHAPTER XXV.

Guides lose their way.—Nahr Hussein.—Dilatoriness of Guides.—Leave them.—Sophia.—Baneas, the Balanea of Strabo.—Robbers reported.—Sponge-fishers.—Gebeleh, famous for its tobacco.—Greek Theatre.—Mosque.—Supper from the Sheikh.—His partiality for the English.—Leave before daylight.—Lose the way.—Return for a Guide.—Gazelles.—Wolf in myrtle coppice.—Lady pilgrims.—British Consul at Latikia.—Antiquities.—Consul's Family.—Entertainment.—Head-dresses of the Daughters.

June 1st.

THE morning being dark, we had scarcely proceeded a mile before the guides lost their way; and we returned nearly to the town in order to recover the track, which ran close to the sea. As the day dawned, and discovered the wild scenery of the shore, it gave the semblance of probability to the stories we had heard of the characters by whom it was frequented. Intersected by ravines, the sand produced different species of the erica, the arbu-

tus, and the myrtle, of sufficient height to shelter any whose designs needed to be veiled. Descending a hill, we arrived at a bridge of one large arch, over a rapid and deep torrent, called "Nahr Hussein," which a short time before had spread over the neighbouring ground, carrying away the soil, tearing up the trees, and leaving the whitened pebbles to complete the aspect of desolation which reigned for a great distance around. The bridge had been so much shaken by the swoln stream as to be impassable, and we kept down the left bank toward the sea, the guides being in doubt where to effect a passage.

But they were so slow in their movements, and paused so frequently to consult about the route, of which they seemed to have no certain knowledge, that my patience being overpowered by my anxiety to get forward, I desired Dimitrio to follow, and urging my horse into the stream we picked our way through, and reached the opposite bank without mischief; but it required caution to get clear of the swampy ground beyond; when we hastened forward, leaving our *guides* to follow. My servant's horse carried the tent and the implements

for making coffee, so that the absence of the two Arabs with the baggage was of little consequence. At nine we halted near a stream, and the nose-bags being hung on to the animals we remained there an hour and breakfasted, keeping up an anxious look-out toward the thickets at the foot of the neighbouring mountains.

In the course of the morning we passed the Maronite village of Sophia, perched upon an eminence to our right. The road kept a parallel line with the sea, generally at the distance of one or two miles, but sometimes along the shore. Near the foot of the mountain upon which stands the town of Markab, fortified with a high wall, are some ruins called by the natives Baneas, by Strabo Balanea.

At three, P.M. having reached a fine pasture district, the northern boundary of the Aradian territory, where the mountains are two or three leagues from the sea, we entered a grove of myrtles in full flower; when Dimitrio suddenly pulled up his horse, and reported "robbers," whom he could see crouching among the shrubs fifty yards before us. The party, consisting of three men and a woman, were seated beside an old ruined wall, their rude spears lying near

them; and it is probable that they inhabited some of the tents which were thinly scattered over the plain toward the mountains; but they detained us no longer than was sufficient to put a few queries. Soon after we passed near a small bay, in which a number of Greek caiques employed in sponge-fishing were moored, while the sailors were diverting themselves upon the beach. Their address being answered in their own language, they hastened to us, and seizing our horses by the bridles, made it doubtful whether we should be allowed to proceed without tribute; but having satisfied their inquiries about the Pacha, and the state of the war, we were suffered to depart without further interruption. It was half-past five P.M. when we reached Gebeleh, a place celebrated in Egypt for the growth of mild and the most fashionable tobacco: the Syrians themselves do not value it, but use in preference a much stronger kind. Latikia being six hours distant, we settled ourselves upon some grass within the gate, near the ruins of a Greek theatre.

This fragment is upon a large scale; the *scena*, fifty paces across, appeared to my eye wider than that of Taurominium, which is the

largest antique dramatic theatre in Europe, and with the exception of the excavation at Pompeii, the most perfect in the world: but that at Taormina seems to have been intended also for the exhibition of combats. The ambulacra still remain at Gebeleh, and in some places the whole semi-circumference of the gradinatæ, but these are nowhere entire to the top in any one *cuneus:* the seats for the women may be traced. Near the ruin is a handsome mosque, containing the remains of Sultan Ibrahim, its founder, which is much venerated and visited by the Moslem from distant parts; and attached to it is a bath. There are many fragments of antiquity scattered about the town, and upon the shore are seen the vestiges of an artificial harbour. The bazaars for the sale of provisions having long closed, I sent to the sheikh, requesting that he would issue orders for supplying the few things of which I had need; instead of which he furnished me with a well-dressed supper from his hareem. In about an hour a janissary arrived, with a large wooden tray upon his head, accompanied by the sheikh in person, who welcomed me with a cordiality that is very unusual in a Mussul-

man when receiving a Christian. He had come to apologize for the humble fare, (as he was pleased to call an excellent repast,) and he wished to see that I did justice to it. The whole was covered with a clean cloth, which being removed, displayed an excellent pilau of kid, dressed vegetables of the size and form of "squash," a dish of haleep (sour curd), and a delicious sort of frumenty of well boiled wheat and raisins, sweetened with sugar, and flavoured with spice, in so judicious a proportion that the compôte would have done credit to a scientific artist.

The sheikh spoke with enthusiasm of the English, and endeavoured to prevail upon me to move my quarters to his divan; but this I declined upon the ground of wishing to leave the place very early; and orders were given to the warder to allow me to pass at any hour, without which permission the gate would not be opened until sun-rise. Two hours before day, the guides not having arrived during the night, we roused the guardian of the gate; and, obtaining from him the necessary information as to the direction of our track, we set forth by star-light.

The path quickly became indistinct; but all trace of it was not entirely lost until we had entered a wood, sufficiently thick to obscure the small portion of light which shone through the grey canopy of clouds, and yet not so dense as to obstruct our passage. Whether spirits of earth or air flitted before Dimitrio I know not, but he loudly protested against proceeding through these dreary shades; and even talked of returning *malgré moi*, until my orders to him to hold his tongue, left him without argument, and he proceeded. As the wood grew thicker, and the track which had served to guide the animals disappeared, his mind did not grow more at ease; and I soon heard his horse rushing forward, and himself calling out, "*Son amazzato io! Santo Diavolo!*" This was strong language, and I was about to inquire what might be the matter, when he muttered in less vociferous tones, "*Oh che genere di luogo è questo! oh che disgrazia! son smontato! son rotto! stracciato! Cospetto di Bacco!*" That he had been pulled off his horse by the branches, was no matter of surprise to me, from his habitually careless manner of holding his reins; but collecting from his voice that no serious mis-

chief had occurred, I omitted any inquiries, and ordered him to mount and follow me. The same accident soon after had nearly occurred to myself; but having my horse tight in hand, I backed out of the difficulty, which if every one would do in time, many a "*disgrazia*" in life would be prevented.

Having reached the limit of the wood, a thick fence impeded our further progress, and after "trying" about in vain for a pass, we returned to the outside, and skirting it, crossed a ravine to a low brush-wood coppice, interspersed with sloughs; where we awakened some dogs which gave notice of our approach. It was clear that we were in the vicinity of the Arab tents, on the border of the pasture country, the neighbourhood of all others which I would most studiously have avoided: for although these people rarely seek an opportunity of plundering during the night, yet if an occasion should premeditatedly put itself in their way, it was not to be expected that they would neglect to take advantage of it. Under these circumstances, I returned to the town; and while Dimitrio was dispatched to knock up a guide, I made fast my horse to my

wrist, and lay down in the path to doze away the time until his return. But I had scarcely settled my head upon an easy stone, when some one approached; and being asked what I was, and answering briefly "Inglees," "Tuyb" (good) was rejoined, and I augured that my horse and baggage were not wanted. The stranger consented to be our guide. As it became light, and he was about to leave us, the *estafette* came up, bound like ourselves to Latikia. Observing that the courier, though well mounted, did not ride hard, I joined him; but he showed so manifest a dislike to our society, that I did not long intrude upon him, and falling behind, wished to use him as a pilot through the difficult, and to us unknown country, that we were about to pass. But he did not long aid us with his guidance; for leaving the track, and riding into the wood which we were traversing, he dismounted, and was joined by two armed Arabs, when a conference ensued between them, which most probably had for its subject, the strength and wealth of a party about to leave Gebeleh the same day for Latikia. The sheikh had urged

me to await the departure of this *caravan* at mid-day, enlarging upon the small chance of two persons escaping without mischief through a country where robberies were continually occurring. But I had grown callous to this tale so often repeated; and the slow pace at which the party, mounted chiefly on asses, would travel, induced me to attempt getting over as much ground as possible before day-light, and leaving the rest to chance.

The track lay through an unbroken myrtle coppice, at two miles from the sea, which was generally hid from sight by a line of sand-hills near the shore. A few gazelles, alarmed at our approach, bounded through the myrtles, and reaching the top of one of the mounds, paused for an instant to survey the surrounding country, and then set forward again, following each other in a line; while at a distance of eighty yards from our path, a wolf was seated under a bush, as if watching the movements of the little herd; some of which might have furnished his mid-day repast, had not our appearance disturbed them: I should have fired at him, but that a shot

would have attracted the notice of the Arabs, whose tents were near, and from whom I was not ambitious of receiving any attentions.

Having crossed several streams during the morning, we reached the last of them, fifty yards in width, at half an hour from Latikia, and rode down to a ford; while a party of lady pilgrims, under protection of some Turks, were descending the opposite hill, toward a bridge two miles to our right, on their way to Gebeleh. Passing near the mosque which stands upon an eminence above Latikia, we brought up at the house of Moses Elias, the British vice-consul, an Arab of the Greek church.

The town is surrounded by gardens, where mulberries, figs, and apricots abound. That its shoal and confined port is artificial, appears from the large masses of hewn stone which lie confused upon each other at its narrow and dangerous entrance, and from the ruins of a tower standing in the sea, that has suffered either from an earthquake or from time. Of *Laodicea* the traces are not numerous. Near to one of the principal streets are four Corinthian columns, with part of a cornice, the proportions of which entitle them to be referred

to a pure æra of architecture. They seem to have occupied a place in one flank of a peripteral temple, but are now partly engaged in the wall of a mosque. In another part of the town is an antique edifice, the ornaments of which have a triumphal character: opposite to each other are two lofty ports, while in the sides are two corresponding arches of smaller dimensions; and the exterior of the building is decorated with casques, cuirasses, shields, and other insignia of war.

The Consul's two sons I found obliging and attentive young men; they exerted themselves to render my residence with them comfortable, by substituting sincerity for formality, and an easy manner of supplying all that could be wanted, without any affected professions of a wish to do a great deal more. The daughters, of whom the eldest was nineteen, had pleasing interesting countenances, which scarcely fell short of beauty. Employed in the household affairs, they prepared our dinner, and having placed it upon table, stood by to serve, removing the dishes and bringing others in succession. I wished to have over-ruled this anomaly, and entreated that they would join our party;

but finding that upon urging my request I was likely to give offence, as if I had asked something indelicate to be done, I was compelled to sit down with the two brothers, and submit to the painful ordeal of seeing their sisters perform the inferior offices of servitude. The notices which occur in Scripture of this primitive practice, excite an interest that abates somewhat of our natural antipathy; still a European* cannot, even by the aid of such a sanction, thoroughly renounce his feelings. I endeavoured to prove to them the advantages of the opposite system, by shewing that in Europe, where men are devoted to the service of women, the rude asperities of nature are softened down; we are rather guided than restrained by their mild sway; and learning to look up to them as the models of social life, our ductile clay imbibes the odour of tenderness, and while inclination prompts, and duty obliges us to observe a gentleness and deference in our bearing toward women, we contract a habit of benevolence to be exercised toward each other.

*The same practice prevails to a less extent in some parts of Germany, among the unpolished classes of society.

In the evening, the duties of the day concluded, they appeared more richly attired, and joined the family party; when we lounged together upon the broad, well-stuffed cushions of the divan, intent upon tobacco, sherbet, and chat. At this *soirée* their heads were ornamented with skull-caps of filigree, and a vast quantity of coins of the country, perforated, and strung about their ears; while the hair hung down in long thin plaits behind, to which a profusion of gold coins also were attached. I believe that the Syrian nymphs carry their *fortunes* upon their heads in this manner; and it must be admitted, that this is a straightforward way of advertising their worth. These young ladies were lively, and conversed without restraint, putting a number of questions that betokened the simplicity of their character. I was asked (a very common question), how many sisters I had; how far I was from home; what had induced me to come to so great a distance; and where I had left my wife? When told that I had hitherto escaped so great a blessing, they inquired if I should like one from Syria:—I should, if I might hope to carry off the inquirer.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Leave Latikia for Antioch.—Picturesque Scenery.—Ibrahim's Road.—Muleteers refractory.—Damascus.—Ladies packed in crates.—Valley of Orontes.—Gardens.—Rich Meadows.—George Dib—His hospitality.—Habit of sopping Bread.—Antioch the Queen of the East.—Antiquities.—Lucius Verus.—Daphne.—Germanicus.—Gems washed bare by heavy rains.

June 2nd.

The guides having arrived toward evening, the next morning I left Latikia for Antakia (Antioch). For the first three hours our route lay along an uninteresting flat near the sea; when diverging to the eastward, we entered the defiles of Mount Casius, where the scenery was more picturesque and pleasing than any which I had yet met with in Syria; though inferior in grandeur to the stern sides of Lebanon. In front, and around, these mountains spring up on every side, irregular in their outline, and irregularly placed; and though not remarkable for

their height, they seem to hem in the pass, and present a barrier not to be surmounted; while the path continues to wind among them with scarcely any ascent. From the summit to the foot, they are enriched with larch, oak, and fir, based upon underwood of ilex, myrtle, and cistus, that paint the landscape with their varied tints; while the vales are carpeted with flowers of gold, and eyed with the bright blue of the campanula. Through the valley which we traversed, a mountain torrent has cut its way, and so tortuous is its course, that we crossed it many times in every mile. The devastation committed by the flood of the preceding season, was evident from the chasms that had been washed in its banks, and the trees which had been deposited far beyond them. This water abounded in tortoises, with flat shells and longish tails, little different in species from one which I bought of a Nubian boy at the cataract, which was no sooner placed upon the ground, than it commenced scratching up the sand, and hid itself entirely from sight. When laid upon its back, it stretched out its long neck, and with great facility turned over upon its feet.

Soon after mid-day we began to ascend the mountains, and the scenery becoming bolder, lost nothing of the glowing and varied richness which pervaded the valleys. The oaks, untouched by man, flourished in their full vigour; and the wedded creepers, embracing their giant stems, and pendent languishing upon their rude arms, found shelter from the scorching heat beneath the green mantle of their leafy boughs. Between the peaks of the distant mountains the sea appeared, in colour rivalling the deep azure of the heavens, and tranquil as the breeze that had lulled even the leaves to rest: and I doubt if there be in any country scenery which, for its magic and enchantment, surpasses that of the ride from Laodicea to Antioch. Three hours before sunset, the muleteers showed symptoms of an inclination to halt for the night; and making a short *détour* from the track, led us to a spreading walnut-tree, where they began to take off the baggage; and it was not until I had dismounted, entreated, and finally threatened, that they would go forward.

The road over these mountains had been made by Ibrahim for the passage of his army; but so imperfect had the work been left, that

in places it was difficult even on foot to get forward without accident. At sunset we reached a little plain of short turf, upon which we pitched the tent, notwithstanding the ground was swampy, and the dew heavy. A Turk, with his attendant, who had joined us, was not too proud to partake of the homely fare that was prepared for ourselves, and asked permission to sleep under cover of the tent.

The muleteers announced their intention or starting again one hour after midnight; a resolution from which I endeavoured to dissuade them, upon the ground that the fatigue would be too great for themselves and the mules, after so short a rest; but the positive manner in which they repeated their determination, together with some hints from Dimitrio, exposed their real motive, which was to wear me out if possible; for the unenlightened part of society in the East entertain very mean ideas of European capacity for enduring fatigue; and I was therefore determined they should not be disappointed. Being awake before two, I pulled up the pegs, when the tent drew in to the post, leaving Dimitrio and the Turk *sub dio:* the baggage being packed, the sonorous slumbers

of the muleteers were converted into tempestuous vociferations and vehement curses, protesting that they would not stir before daylight. It was to no purpose that they were reminded of their own proposal the night before, and that it was now too late to change their mind, as the tent was struck and the baggage ready: one of them seated himself by the fire, while the other put on it a tree, as if calculating on some hours' respite. Seizing the latter by the beard, I was about to smite him; but he prayed not to be smitten, and promised to load the mules. The moon supplied ample light for us to thread the intricacies of this mountain forest, under the conduct of the Turk, who led us without a track across ravines, and through the swamps, in a manner that gave confidence in his judgment and experience as a guide. At eight hours we halted in an open space among the bushes, where five spreading walnut-trees afforded shade against the rays of the sun, and a fountain upon the spot, had led to the established custom among travellers of resorting thither for repose.

A party with their asses moved off soon after our arrival; and before we evacuated the ground,

a caravan came up from Damascus, which place it had left some days before us, having followed the route by Hammah and Homs. In this company were two strong mules, loaded with ladies packed in crates, slung like panniers, one on each side of the animal. A green canopy formed a pavilion above, and hung down so as to shelter the fair inmates from the sun, and guard them against the intrusion of the evil eye. The Arab who led the first mule, passing incautiously under the walnut-tree where I was lying, the canopy was carried away by the branches, and the ladies were left for my inspection, to the manifest chagrin of their Turkish proprietor, who rode close to them. Neither did I wonder at this poor man's distress when his precious cargo was exhibited: one of them was an elderly lady with yellow cheeks and painted eyelids, while her *pendant* was a Sennaar girl: a race who, with their mutton-matted heads and lacerated faces, are the ugliest and cheapest of the Africans in the Eastern markets; and this creature was not handsome of her kind.

As we descended into the valley of the Orontes, among gardens of every fruit, the

meadows near the river were enamelled with the chrysanthemum, whose hues, burnished by the lustre of the setting sun, gave a rich colouring to the landscape. Upon reaching the town, I found George Dib, the Consul, seated in his divan, issuing orders to his attendants, who were weighing and binding bales of raw silk, of which he was a wholesale exporter. He welcomed me with a loud and hearty voice, highly characteristic of the hospitality for which he is famed throughout Syria; and for which he cannot but be remembered by every European traveller who has sojourned at Antioch. I begged that my presence might not interfere with the business upon which he was employed; and he certainly had no intention that it should. This was no sooner concluded than he began to complain of the British Government, for having allowed him to continue sixteen years Consul unprovided with a patent; which he considered a great grievance, as it left him without dignity, in that the British flag was never seen to wave over his divan; and without authority, inasmuch as in all disputes the Moosellim was too powerful for him, instead of submitting to his will. The wooden windows of the divan opened

upon the shallow stream of the Orontes, here headed back for the purpose of turning an enormous wheel to raise water, which was conducted by a trough to the farthest extremity of the town; and which, dripping in its passage over the streets, rendered many of them impassable, except under cover of an umbrella.

George Dib's bounty is as indiscriminate as it is ample. No one calls before eleven o'clock who is not asked to dine, and no one refuses, so that he rarely sits down with less than seven or eight persons; and the chief attendant, Dibo, (probably a patronymic,) never knows until the moment arrives how many sets of fingers are to be provided for. The arrangement of his table is remarkable. The table-cloth, (not a common luxury in the East,) is spread under the table, which is formed by a stool set upon its head, with its legs in the air, supporting a large pewter tray loaded with pilau, stews of meat and vegetables, fish, (which from the Orontes is delicious, especially the eels,) cucumber dressed in the European way, and sometimes a soup of rice. Wine is always at hand, and each guest is expected to drink two glasses of rakhee before the repast begins. The

only aids in eating were wooden spoons, which were not without utility in the soup course. I observed, however, that some of the party ate it by sopping their bread; a practice which seems to have remained unchanged since the days when the traitor Judas "received the sop;" a token of the affection of him who gave it, and a proof that He felt no malice for his disciple's treachery, and a tacit declaration that, as man, He pardoned the great offence which was about to be committed against him. The custom for the host to select pieces from the dish and give them to the guest as a mark of good-will, is well known, as the usage has been remarked by every Oriental traveller.

Antioch, "the queen of the East," from the splendour of its buildings and the beauty of its situation, might well deserve the dedication to Apollo which it obtained from Seleucus. But to the Christian it has yet a higher interest, as being the great archiepiscopal see filled by St. Peter himself, and the place where the disciples of Christ were first emboldened to adopt the name of their Divine master: from which circumstance it was called "the eye of the Eastern church;" and by Justinian, after he had

repaired it, "Theopolis." On the south-west side of the town is a precipitous mountain ridge, upon which a considerable portion of the old Roman wall of Antioch is still standing, of great height and thickness. At short intervals high square towers are built up in it, containing a staircase and two or three chambers, which seem to have formed the guard-rooms for those who were on duty. These towers were four hundred in number, furnished with cisterns, which no longer exist. The wall runs in a direct line up the steepest part of the mountain; and the top of it, in the intervals between the towers, is formed into stairs, by which the soldiers marched to and from their stations, as the easiest way of communication with the citadel above; and it continues to the present time the best method of ascending the hill. The wall runs along two distinct hill tops, separated from each other by a deep ravine, across which it was continued upon an arch for the water to pass, called the "iron port." But time, or repeated earthquakes, have nearly demolished this part of it. At the east end of the western hill are the remains of a fortress, with its turrets, vaults, and cisterns. One of the latter is cir-

cular, about forty-five paces in diameter, but almost entirely filled up with earth; and the substructions of two round towers still remain, which may have contained the machinery for drawing the water. The existing tradition that the Roman emperors used to navigate this basin in pleasure-boats, is, no doubt, an invention of their Christian enemies: it is not likely that the lively and dissolute Lucius Verus, who whiled away four winters here, and spent thirty-five thousand pounds on a supper, could be satisfied with no more exciting pastime than this. We may with more probability suppose it to have been at this spot, than at the infamous retreat of Daphne, in the suburbs of the city, that the gallant and amiable Germanicus received from Piso the poisoned cup which his uncle Tiberius provided for him. Toward the mountain south-south-west of the city, some fragments of the aqueducts remain. After heavy rains, antique marble pavements are visible in many parts of the town; and gems, cornelians, and rings, are frequently found.

Antakia stands upon scarcely one-third of the area enclosed within the ancient wall; of which

so much is preserved entire, that the line of it is easily traced, and the entrance to the town from Aleppo is by one of the old gates, not far from which the members of the Greek church assemble for their devotions in a cavern dedicated to St. John. At the end of two days, having completed my examination of Antioch, I requested mine host to order horses to take me forward, which he objected to do; and on my side argument had increased to remonstrance, before I discovered that his refusal arose from the feelings of hospitality which he exercised toward all within his reach. He assured me that no Englishman ever left his house in less than a week; and I was compelled against my inclination to remain two days longer. Horses were not to be procured; and the mules, which we got with difficulty, would only carry us to Scanderoon, twelve hours.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Leave Antioch.—Pliny.—Lake.—Beilan.—Battle of Scanderoon.—Issicus Sinus.—Malaria.—Jebbek.—Mount Amanus.—Pylæ Syriæ.—Carsus.—Paias.—Four Travellers murdered.—Mustuck Bey.—Interview.—Detained seven hours for horses.—Sheikh.—Wife deaf.—Squirt.—Darius defeated by Alexander.—Scene of the murder.—Gurgula.—Fracas with the women avoided.—Large Xan.—Flies.—Bellerophon.—Pegasus.—RiverXihoon.—Missis.—Sheikh.—Aleian plain.—Troops marching from Adana.—River Sihoon.—Camp.—Guides gallop away.

June 8.

We left Antioch soon after mid-day, and passed by a bridge above the water-wheel to the right bank of the Orontes; where are some coarse substructions and low mounds, corresponding with Pliny's description of the town, as being on both sides of the river. Keeping up the valley to the north-east for four hours and a half, we began to ascend the low range of Mount Pierus on our left; the lake of Antioch lying in full view a league to the

north-east. At the commencement of the pass there is a Xan, enclosed within high walls, near to which the Pacha has established a post-house. A little beyond this station, to the left of the road, is a small town, now uninhabited, built upon a craggy rock; the approach to which is so difficult, that the situation is well chosen for security against restless neighbours, or the incursions of those distant plundering hordes, who in times past, more than at present, were a terror to the defenceless inhabitants of the country. These mountains abound in all kinds of wood, amongst which are the arbutus, the ilex, and the clethora, growing to a great size, besides a small sort of fir which the climate does not agree with. At sunset we pitched the tent near a fountain, half an hour from Beilan, where a keen piercing wind that came driving along the mountain threatened every moment to carry it away.

At sunrise next morning we passed the village, which had been the scene of one of the principal engagements between Ibrahim and the troops of the Sultan. It is built upon the side of the mountain, and commanded by its overhanging brow; while the precipitous crags

on which it stands render it difficult of access from the northward. The road from Antioch by the mountain forest is narrow, and runs through so many defiles, commanded by heights affording shelter, that a very small force, properly disposed, might have rendered the pass impregnable against an advancing army. Instead of seizing upon the heights above Beilan as well as the place itself, and disputing the defiles in advance, the Turks occupied the village, while the main body of the army was stationed below, among the woods and marshes about Scanderoon. Such was the disposition of the enemy's force when the Pacha reached the mountains from the eastward, and immediately reconnoitred in person his position. Hussein, the Turkish general, in the mean time had pitched his pavilion in a small octagonal fort, faced with strong bastions,—a remnant of the days of the Crusaders,—upon the low swampy ground near the sea, where, surrounded by his hareem and attended by his musicians, he passed a very pleasant life, but without calculating the costs. The result of his supineness and incapacity might be foreseen: his troops, with the example of such a leader, were not

likely to make an obstinate resistance; and being easily dislodged from the village of Beilan, the impetuous Ibrahim, at the head of his victorious Arabs, poured down upon the centre of the Turkish army, and gained a decisive victory at very small loss. Hussein was disgraced by the Sultan.

At ten A. M. I reached Alexandretta, or Scanderoon, which gives the modern name to the "Issicus sinus," at the north-east corner of the Mediterranean. This place was founded by Alexander at the same time with Nicopolis, after his victory at Issus. The marsh, which entirely surrounds Scanderoon, renders it one of the most unhealthy spots in Syria; and the scantiness of the population, together with their sallow complexions and swoln bodies, testify the vindictive influence of malaria, which few constitutions are able to withstand. The Consul, who was an Italian, formerly in the service of Napoleon, and afterward employed by the Schah of Persia, had been resident there for two years; and owed his health, as he supposed, to having rigidly abstained from the water of the place, and confined himself to that supplied by a spring half

a league distant, which he leavened with British rum.

When our trade with the Levant flourished, Scanderoon was a depôt for merchandise to and from Aleppo, and a Xan was built by the company for its reception. This building, with the wall that encloses it, occupies as much ground as the present village; and though in a very dilapidated state, several of the chambers still remain entire. These are large, and supplied with chimneys; fire being a precaution very necessary in this damp situation, both for the health of the residents and the preservation of their goods. The building is still called the "English Xan;" and the burying-ground close to it exhibits a lamentable catalogue of the names of those Englishmen who have fallen a sacrifice to the miasma. I visited the position of the Turkish camp with the Consul, who told me that the soldiers were about to set fire to the Xan, which at that time contained some British consignments; but upon his repairing to Hussein's tent, and threatening him with the vengeance of England, they were ordered to desist.

The Consul regaled me hospitably, and I

hinted to him that I wanted a bill changed; which he prudently declined;—"*Ah, Signore mio, sarebbe difficile quì;*"—but he gave me a letter to the Consul at Tarsus, who would "have pleasure in negotiating it."

At two P. M. I took my leave, having with much difficulty obtained two horses to carry us to Paias, (Baiæ,) five hours, with a note to Mustuk Bey, the commandant of a small garrison, desiring him to send me forward to Adana, where it was currently reported that the Pacha had arrived with the army, on his return from Kutaieh.

Midway between Scanderoon and Paias is the village of Jebbek, where the mildest tobacco of Syria is grown; but the plantation is very small and unknown. Mount Amanus here runs parallel with the coast, and so close to it as to form the narrow gorge called the "Pylæ Syriæ*;" along which the road is shaded by myrtles, pomegranates, and vines, growing spontaneously upon the mountain side. The village of Paias stands upon the shore; but Bey and his little troop were stationed two miles inland, among some gardens skirted by

* Gates of Syria.

the river "Carsus," where it was not easy to find his barrack. Previous to the Egyptian conquest of Syria, Mustuk had been the most merciless robber in the country. No traveller could pass without being laid under contribution, while some lost their lives; and the firman of the Porte proved an inadequate protection against the lawless practices of this chief. He was now appointed by the Pacha to the command of a small force, whose duty it was to patrol the road between Scanderoon and Gurgula, a village eight hours to the north.

Notwithstanding this judicious appointment, a robbery had been committed sixteen days before, in a defile six hours distant, and four travellers, of whom the party consisted, had been put to death. It was at first supposed to have been perpetrated by the Koords; but turned out to be the act of some men of Paias, who were detected and executed upon the same spot. These men had no doubt been trained to their occupation by Mustuk himself; and it was hinted to me at Gurgula, that he had been privy to, and a gainer by, the occurrence.

Reached the barrack at sunset, and demanded an interview with the Bey; but the good

man was at mosque, and could not be disturbed. The yard was open on one side to a stubble-field, where the tent was pitched, and some coffee brought to it from the colonel's quarters. The troop horses were pegged down round the yard; and at one corner stood a square mud building, which seemed to serve the purpose of a guard-room. A ladder was placed against it, and on the commandant's return from mosque he ascended to the top, to enjoy the dews of the evening, smoke, take coffee, and issue his orders. I waited upon him immediately.

He was a handsome man, with a thick black beard, and richly dressed in coloured silk. Having crossed my breast in token of "salaam," I observed that he took no notice of me, but continued with his eyes fixed on a paper, as if he was not conscious of my presence. Hereupon I drew the firman from my pocket, and holding it open close before him, desired Dimitrio to tell him that I wanted horses. This mode of treating him seemed in some measure to abate his haughtiness, for he desired me to sit down, and taking the pipe from his mouth, presented it. Coffee was brought, and we passed some time in conversation, according to the received Turk-

ish mode,—the Bey asking divers questions, and answering none. He inquired about the state of the war; to which it was replied, that he was nearer to the seat of it than I was, and I had come to *him* for information. A report was at that time prevalent that England and France were likely soon to be engaged in war with Russia, and he asked my opinion as to the result of it: there could be but *one answer* to this. But he did not agree with me; for he said the popular nature of our governments, (which I had just endeavoured to explain to him,) made it impossible that we should be able to cope with Russia, which was subject to *one* head; and his argument he proceeded to exemplify thus: "The Pacha, for instance, is a good man, (the Bey is known to abhor him at heart,) and studies the welfare of his people, and what he commands is done; but if he ordered one thing, and you another, and I something else, nothing would be done: such governments as yours, that are in many hands, must be bad." And this appears to be the view which the Orientals generally take of any form of government that is not despotic.

This man would gladly have hailed the ar-

rival of the Russians, or indeed any other power that he thought would leave him to himself, and liberate him from the obligations to honesty which the Pacha had imposed upon him, and by which his revenues were declining. He furnished me with three very fine mules at sunrise, to take me to a village one hour distant; and a soldier who accompanied me had orders to press others into my service to go as far as Gurgula. We left the barrack with twenty-five of his troop, who were marching out to give security to the road; but I never saw men whose appearance more betokened an employment the reverse of theirs, and I certainly was freed from considerable anxiety when I escaped from their protection.

Having been deposited with my baggage in a garden where a patriarchal sheikh was seated on a mat under the shade of some mulberry-trees, I was detained seven hours before fresh horses were produced, various excuses being advanced for the delay; till at last he said it had now become so late that it would be imprudent to depart before the next morning, as the latter part of the road was very dangerous. My applications were now changed to threats,

and I assured him that he should be reported to the Pacha, and bastinadoed: horses were brought soon after.

I had myself in some measure to blame for this waste of time; for soon after my arrival the sheikh consulted me about his wife, who had become very deaf, and whom he would fain see restored to the use of her ears. I prescribed a syringe charged with warm water; but finding some difficulty in making him comprehend the nature of the instrument, a drawing was executed upon the sand, which he immediately understood, and desiring an attendant to fetch a cane, a huge squirt was made, which would have served the purpose of watering a greenhouse, or putting out a fire. It now occurred to me that I might be called upon to administer the remedy; for which reason I told him that the operation must not be performed till night, when his wife was retiring to bed, lest she should catch cold: and it appeared afterwards, that the cause of his detaining me actually was that he might profit by my services. If the lady's age bore any reasonable proportion to that of her venerable spouse, it was likely that her malady would not be wash-

ed out by warm water, and I should get no credit by the operation. Another sheikh who was present requested me to prescribe for one of his wives, whose disorder was of a more delicate nature; but having no medicine to suit it, I disclaimed all knowledge of the hakkim's science, and refused any advice lest cases should multiply upon me.

We left the village before 3 P. M. and crossing some streams or mountain torrents near the shore, in three hours reached the eastern corner of the gulf of Issus, where we left the sea, striking over the low hills in a more northerly direction. At the angle to the right are some ruins, distant about a mile, but whether of classic æra I could not judge; for we were now approaching the thicket where the travellers had been murdered some days before: the sun was sinking fast, and far to the west, and our little party was in too nervous a state to endure the delay that would be necessary to examine them. At the point where we left the sea were a few mounds and substructions of buildings, which, together with those just mentioned, may be all that remains of Issus, where Alexander defeated the army of Darius, leaving one hundred thou-

sand Persians dead upon the field, with the loss of one hundred men: so the story goes, at least.

Having passed these, the road entered a winding ravine, closely hemmed in on both sides by a low coppice. As we advanced, and rounded the point of a projecting mound, a bridge came in sight, upon which a number of vultures had posted themselves, and the stench of putrid flesh soon told the cause of their gathering together. The victims had fallen at this spot; but justice, that ever dogs the heels of crime, had speedily overtaken the murderers: they had suffered for their deed upon the field of its perpetration; and their bodies, thrown among the bushes, were left to be contended for by wolves and vultures.

Toward the head of the ravine, the arch of an ancient gateway stands across the road, the flanking wall of which is formed of small polygonal stones well compacted. The ruined village of Gurgula, an hour and a half beyond this, was bereft of its inhabitants, who had established themselves in tents above it, in consequence, *as they said*, of the grievances to which they had been subjected by the Pacha's soldiers when the army had marched into Asia

Minor, and which they hoped now to escape by retiring before the same army should repass. From the conduct which I saw among the troops, I believe this story to be perfectly unfounded.

Attracted by their blazing night-fires, we went directly to the hill. The men had nearly all disappeared; but herds of women, buffaloes, dogs, and goats, collected round us; and the former no sooner learnt that we demanded horses under the firman, than they raised their voices simultaneously, giving vent to the most virulent abuse against the Pacha, who, as they affirmed, had robbed them of men, mules, and horses, and whose authority they fearlessly defied. They were not to be awed by the sight of the firman, and I deemed it prudent to put it in my pocket, lest it should be torn to pieces or reduced to ashes.

During the tumult, a squalid squeaking hag, with "leathern dugs" immeasurably long, came behind Dimitrio, and seizing him by either ear, shook his head as if he had no right to it, and released it from her grasp reluctantly. The fury of the important little Greek at this assault was increased by my laughing, and he was about to lay violent hands upon the bel-

dame, when I interfered to prevent further mischief, which would doubtless have ensued had we either by word or deed declared war against these Amazons, supported as they were by a phalanx of ferocious dogs baying around us and eager to begin the onslaught.

At one end of the village a large space was enclosed within a high stone wall; and at the corner a ruined building was occupied by the postmaster, and those employed about the horses. Having seen us pass, and judging from the nervous excitement of the fair ones in the camp that we might get into trouble, he very humanely came to our rescue, and invited us to take shelter for the night in the posthouse, promising to exert himself to get us horses before the morning. They had been removed to a place of concealment four miles distant; nevertheless, soon after sunrise, two clever white mares were brought, and with these we went forward, being assured that we should find others at Missis, six hours beyond. Within the enclosure are the ruins of a Xan, in the principal magazine of which are eighteen chimneys remaining.

Soon after leaving Gurgula we entered

an immense plain, and were occupied four hours in crossing it. The heat, untempered by a breath of air, was very oppressive; and the flies, which swarmed about us like bees, made it more insupportable. These creatures, of the size and shape of drones, were of a vivid green colour, and their bite was so severe that the necks and chests of the horses were dripping with blood. If it was one of these same that stung Pegasus, it is no wonder that Bellerophon got a fall upon the Aleian plain just beyond. Though I contrived to keep them from my face by continually flourishing a branch before me, yet, wherever they bit through my clothes, a swelling immediately followed.

The west side of the plain is bounded by a ridge of rocky mountains; and a little detached from the line, two miles north of our route, a deserted fortress is seen crowning the summit of one of them. The pass across this ridge is hewn in the rocks, and we descended on the other side to the river Xihoon, anciently called Pyramus, eighty yards in width; and keeping along the left bank for two hours, we crossed to the town of Missis by a bridge, at the end of which is a small round column bearing some

letters of a Greek inscription, besides several mounds, prostrate shafts of marble, and one capital inscribed with Greek characters, the only remaining traces of Mopsuestia.

It was mid-day when we arrived, and the sheikh was as much discomposed as might be expected at our breaking in upon his siesta. He soon became civil, and though he gave little hopes of being able to provide horses, he would do his best. A mat being spread and a cushion laid, I stretched myself in this wretched tenement of mud; and a black janissary in attendance received orders to provide some food. Haleep and caimac* were brought upon a wooden tray, with bread of the thickness and colour of brown paper, which was rolled up like a napkin; and a small piece being torn off, served as a scoop or spoon to eat the curds with. The sheikh in the mean time called for his pistols, slung on his sword, and mounted his horse, to scour the neighbourhood in search of baggir.† But he returned without success, and determined, as the only resource, to compel

* Cheese.

† A term common both among Turks and Arabs to signify "*hackneys*."

the guide who had come from Gurgula to go forward, after the horses had fed and rested sufficiently: but it was now discovered that this man had no sooner deposited us and our baggage, than he had left the place, without even receiving payment for his horses; calculating the possibility of being called upon to go forward, and entertaining a dread of falling in with the army, lest he should be impressed, and his horses seized. The janissary pursued the fugitive, and in less than an hour he was brought back.

The road beyond Missis traverses an immense cultivated plain for four hours, when it crosses a ridge of rocky hills, and the fine "Aleius Campus" succeeds, at the further side of which the domes and minarets of Adana* are seen, as if resting upon the foot of Mount Taurus; which is nevertheless four leagues to the north of it. The Egyptian camp was visible among the trees, stretching along the left bank of the broad river Seihoon†

* Huetius supposes the name "Adana" to come from "Eden," on account of the fertility of the plain in which it stands.

† Formerly Sarus.

which skirts the town on the eastern side; and part of the first division of the retiring army was then marching out for Hammah, to go into permanent quarters. The detachments were crossing the plain by two different routes, which would reunite at Missis, where is the only bridge over the Xihoon. The men had suffered much in the campaign; and when the band ceased to play and they fell out of their ranks, their miserable condition, as to vigour of body, arms, and accoutrements, was very apparent. As they advanced, our guides became agitated with terror, and notwithstanding my assurances that the firman would secure both themselves and horses from harm, they were not to be pacified, and one of them, taking the bridle in his hand, led my horse forward, continually imploring me to save him. The tent was pitched upon a piece of turf near the camp, both for the sake of security, and that I might observe the parades and habits of the soldiers: but the guides finding themselves in the midst of the army, gave up all for lost. My advice, that they should remain under my protection until night, when they might depart unseen, required too much

presence of mind: the sound of the drums and the sight of the bayonets created a restlessness which they could not master, and having received their money, they mounted, and starting at full speed, kept their whips at work until they were lost upon the plain. They were observed from the camp; but, fortunately for them, the cavalry piquets were at some distance, or their hasty step might not have speeded them.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Scarcity of Bread, Meat, and Fuel.—Abbas Pacha and Caramanian Dogs.—European Instructors.—Bazaars of Adana. —Stepping-stones. —Discipline of Soldiers.— Dine with European Instructors — Their habits—Sufferings in the late Campaign.—Presented to little Ibrahim Pacha—Contrasted with Ibrahim his Uncle. — Character of Egyptian Troops.—Detachments from Konieh.—Horses offered to Eregli and refused.—Leave Adana for Tarsus with Hakkim Bashi.—Egyptian Cavalry on the banks of the Cydnus. — Fall. —Alexander's Bath there. — Fragment of Aqueducts.—Visit to the French Consul. — Refuses to change Bills. — Austrian Consul — His Advice — His Wife — His Dinner. — Return to Baggage. — Fortunate meeting with an Instructor of Cavalry.

June 11.

EARLY on the following morning another detachment marched in, when the camp mustered fourteen thousand men. There was a great scarcity of bread, and that which the town afforded was black and scarcely fit for use. The very few beasts which came to the market were no sooner killed than the meat was

distributed; insomuch that even the European instructors found it scarcely possible to procure any. Fuel was a material of unknown value; and as none was to be bought, I was compelled to gather sticks from the trees among the tombs near my tent. Soon after sunrise the drums beat throughout the camp, and some one or other of the regiments was under drill during the greater part of the day, notwithstanding the excessive heat. As I was sitting over my coffee the morning after my arrival, observing a regiment that had taken up its ground to be inspected, Abbas Pacha, one of the chiefs in command, passed, and rode up the line, followed by a pack of Caramanian dogs; a proceeding so openly in defiance both of creed and discipline, that I could not but admire the great want of prejudice in this lax Mussulman. These dogs* are extremely handsome. In form they resemble the English greyhound; but their tails, legs, and ears are finely feathered like those of a setter. The most prevalent colour is black, with tan legs and eyebrows: but some of those which

* There are some bad specimens in the *Zoological* Garden.

attended this Pacha were milk-white, and I learnt that he was an amateur and great collector of them, having seized upon all that came in his way during the campaign.

The European instructors had also brought back several, which being originally kidnapped, were now frequently stolen and re-stolen among themselves, and having no legitimate masters, were nearly starved to death. During my stay at Tarsus some of these gentlemen, who had heard me admire the dogs, were very anxious that I should take a brace away, and proposed sending out into the town to have them captured: but as they might be an impediment to my progress afterwards, I declined committing this laudable act of dishonesty.

I addressed myself to two European instructors who came to the camp in the morning, requesting them to put me in the way of getting horses for my journey forward. They invited me to dinner at eleven A. M. and crossing a long bridge of fifteen arches, below which are some water-wheels, we adjourned to a *café* in one of the bazaars of Adana.

The town is built of large, thin, sun-dried bricks, resembling those which compose some of

the ancient buildings about Rome, but differing in shape from any that I have seen either in Egypt or Syria. The bazaars are narrow, dark, and dirty, the centre being intersected by a deep channel, to cross which large stepping-stones are placed at the corners; an ancient device, as may be seen at Pompeii, and still retained in some of the remote villages of Italy.* The divan of mud in front of the *café* was shaded by an awning, supported upon poles in their primitive state; and as we sat under it sipping the black nauseous beverage, I observed the soldiers bartering for vegetables, and could not help doubting whether all *European* armies, under similar circumstances, would have been so scrupulous in their mode of treating as these barbarians were. A number of them had crowded round a defenceless old woman, and were labouring with all their Arabic to beat down her prices; yet as she persisted in standing out for a few paras, the articles were relinquished without violence.

It was not long before we removed to the quarters of my new acquaintance. Having entered a court-yard, we ascended by some

* Some of the streets in Turin are similarly provided.

stairs to a *flat* roofed over, but having its front open to the air, serving both for dormitory and dining-room to my hosts, three of whom had been expatriated from Bologna for some offence against the Austrian government. Two Frenchmen were quartered in the same apartment; and the whole party appeared equally discontented with their present service. Their pay, nominally high, was twelve or eighteen months in arrear; which was a serious grievance to men so situated. The amount of it had been lately reduced, and the mode of payment changed. It had formerly come to them in produce, such as cotton, rice, sugar, &c., which they sold at considerable loss; but since the Pacha had deemed it more to their advantage to be paid in specie, he had curtailed the amount, and left them long without it.

Most of the Franks had suffered in the campaign, particularly in the passage of Mount Taurus, the cold of which had deprived some of the use of hands or feet, while others had perished. Though they had not adopted the Oriental dress, they had divested themselves of European habits, and the lofty pile of rice set before us was demolished with a few wooden spoons

in compliment to me as a stranger, instead of their adhering to the customary method of using their fingers. Bread and meat formed no part of our meal. Adamantine biscuit supplied the place of the former, and the laconic apology, "*Non c'è*," was substituted for the latter; but the scene was enlivened by a considerable quantity of rakkee, both before and after dinner, when the company began to take their siesta and I took my leave.

On the following morning one of the Italians gave me *a mount*, and we rode to the quarters of the "little Ibrahim Pacha," as the grandson of Mohammed Ali is called. He had acted under Ibrahim his uncle during the campaign, and was now appointed commander-in-chief of the forces at Adana. A short, thick, vulgar-looking man, twenty-three years of age; he was seated upon a mat at the end of a small room, evincing no symptoms of talent or animation, and from his proportions he appeared to be indiscreet in his eating. It was reported of him, that, finding war and its privations not much to his taste, he requested leave to send home to Egypt for his hareem, as a relief to the monotony of his military duties. But his re-

quest was not acceded to, and he received a reprimand for having made it.

Ibrahim his uncle is in habit and character the very reverse of his nephew. Inured to fatigue, courting danger rather than careless of it, he reposes upon the earth like his troops, and is content with the same coarse food; and, did such an emergency occur, would refuse the proffered water until the last soldier of his army had been satisfied. His example animates his men, his tone enforces the obedience of his officers; and though not regardless of the appearance of his army, he sets no great value upon the dainty niceties of dress, as his own rough exterior betokens. The Arabs evinced great courage in all their encounters with the Turks, and the surgeons said of them that their fortitude under the severest operations could not be surpassed. Though beyond a question they are very superior to any Oriental force of the present day, except our own Sepoys, yet they are so imperfect in their tactics, and so slow in their manœuvres, that a body of them would be unequal to any well-organised European force of half its number.

The little Ibrahim told me that his uncle had

returned to Konieh, from whence detachments were arriving every hour, and that he might be expected in Adana in ten days. The principal object of my interview with the little Pacha, was to persuade him to supply horses to take me through to Constantinople; first, because I had not specie enough to carry me so far, and must therefore travel upon credit until I should arrive there; and next, because as soon as I should have got beyond the Pacha's army, anarchy and confusion would naturally prevail, the people not knowing to whom they owed obedience; so that there would be little chance of obtaining horses. The firman of Egypt would certainly not command attention; and I had no document of authority from the Sultan even if the people should be ready to respect it, which under the circumstances was scarcely to be calculated upon. Besides which, the Pacha had seized every available beast within his reach for the transport of the sick and baggage.

Little Ibrahim admitted the weight of these arguments, and that it was very natural they should operate strongly upon me; but they had not the same effect upon him, as he persisted in refusing horses for more than four days,

viz. to Eregli, urging the necessities of the army; but thought it possible that from thence I might get others to Konieh, where he washed his hands of me, and for all beyond he would leave me to nature. In this perplexity I had no alternative but to go down to Tarsus, nine hours, and offer my bills for exchange to the French Consul, according to the advice given me at Scanderoon, and then endeavour to get round the *western* side of Asia Minor, where are the scenes of the most interesting events connected with the history of the country; and on the following evening, two hours before sunset, I left Adana in company with a Bolognese promoted to the rank of "Hakkim Bashi."* The Italians appeared to be more enervated by the heat than might be expected in the natives of their warm climate, if it were not that the degraded state of the Italian mind, scourged by Metternich and prostrated by popery, induces an indolence of body which is never awakened to energy, except when roused to a paroxysm of fury: a tumour on a debilitated spirit! It was their habit to travel very short distances, late in the evening and early in the

* Chief Surgeon.

morning, and to devote the greater portion of the day to inactivity. Having reached a village at six hours, the hakkim led the way to the sheikh's hareem, and in a peremptory manner, without tendering or intending payment, demanded lodging and supper in the name of the Pacha. The sleeping attendants were quickly dislodged from their mats, and conducted us to a yard crowded with sheep, cows, and goats, who courteously retired from one corner to make room for the tent; and the ground having been swept as clean as circumstances would admit and contented minds required, we were supplied with sour curds and rice, brown-paper bread, and a bardac of water.

Four hours' sleep upon such fare, believe me, reader, is worth four times that number after overloading the powers of nature, and crowding the gastric chambers with all the variety that the most exquisite science can produce, or the gourmand's craving can demand; and if the generality of readers were not incorrigible in their appetites, always preferring to dine where the best dinners are given, scrutinising with curious eye each *entremet* and *entrée*, and culling those which most propitiate the palate,

ruthless of the torments they entail upon their bodies, I would enlarge upon the benefits of such a supper as ours, and end by admonishing every one to ensure his happiness by adopting a similar diet.

Before sunrise we renewed our journey, and reached Tarsus in two hours. As we approached the town, the Egyptian cavalry were descried picqueted among the orange-groves upon the banks of the Cydnus, which though flowing tumultuously, and tumbling over rocks in a fall little inferior to Schaffhausen, has a muddy impure colour, and certainly would never have tempted the Macedonian monarch if he had not been very hot. That I should be induced to plunge in was reasonable, for the gratification of boasting of what *Alexander* "*and I did*," and few Englishmen besides: fortunately I escaped the fever which his majesty caught. The water of the Cydnus is intensely cold, being augmented by the melting snows of Mount Taurus; as is the Halys, which takes its rise on the opposite side of that range, and the temperature of which I found equally low. The Cydnus in some places is eighty yards wide.

Having crossed the bridge, we passed through a lofty narrow arch bearing resemblance to a fragment of an aqueduct; but being finished with mouldings, and otherwise ornamented within, it has more probably been one of the city gates. On the south-west side of the town is another arch of a similar form, which exhibits this additional proof that it was destined for some other purpose than simply to convey water —upon the outer façade the traces of a Corinthian cornice still exist. These remains are nevertheless both considered as parts of an aqueduct by the Franks resident in the country.

Leaving my baggage in the yard attached to the quarters of a Frank surgeon, I inquired for the French Consul, whose spacious house, surmounted by a tri-coloured flag of more than ordinary dimensions, bespoke him to be a man who affected importance, and encouraged the hope that he might, by attending to the recommendation contained in the letter from Alexandretta, release me from a difficulty that was hourly approaching to a crisis.

There is a depression which ever accompanies the act of asking a favour: it is a slough in the pathway of life, where the pil-

grim would step aside, were not the crossing it sometimes indispensable to his progress. The liberal spirit shrinks from it as debasement: so few can grant without showing some token of superiority; scarce any can withhold without wounding the petitioner; and I would gladly have given one half the value of the bill, to have secured the other without enduring the pain of applying for it.

The Consul was not up; and having ascended the stairs, I found the vestibule or corridor at the top supplied with chairs. He soon arrived, and was followed by his wife, a lady much his inferior in years, and whom he was said to watch with the very eyes of Argus, though she was far less tempting than Iö,—at least the Borghese Iö.* As he read the letter, his countenance, where caution, avarice, and meanness were stamped in no illegible characters, was screwed up, as it were by cogs, to a pitch of resolution that made me doubtful if I should even mention the subject of my visit; but, urged on by dire necessity, I addressed him thus briefly: "I am without money, sir; but I have bills upon

* Shakspeare seems to allude to this picture in "The Taming of a Shrew."

Messrs. Hammersley, one of the first houses in London, payable at Smyrna and Alexandria. I am told you have communication with these places: may I take the liberty of requesting that you will cash one of them? here it is."— "It is impossible, sir; I have no communication with those places: I know nothing of your bills, sir; I never do anything of this sort: you should have changed them at Beirout: Beirout has intercourse with all the world; in this out-of-the-way place we have not. My G—, sir! it is very strange that you should have come up here without money. It was very unwise for a traveller——" "*Pardon, monsieur, attendez*—if you are unwilling to change my bill, be it so; but it does not belong to you to tell me where I ought to travel, or to presume that you know my affairs better than myself." I had finished his coffee, and was glad of an opportunity of dismissing from my lips the execrable pipe; and I returned to the street, ashamed and downcast at this defeat, and wondering at my own assurance in having made the application which had led to it.

The sun, darting down between the mud walls, had destroyed the very herbs; and as the

stifling heat seemed to quell the power of exertion, I was scarcely surprised that the men of the country were reduced to the inertness of vegetable existence. "Dunque," said I to Dimitrio; "come si deve far?"—"Non lo so, signore."—"Che vuol dir, *non lo so?* Eccoci quì senza moneta, senza cavalli. Corpo della Luna! che vuol dir, *non lo so?*"—"*Non lo so,* signore," he repeated, "*ma che bestia è quel Consule!*"

How admirable and wise a provision it is that the mind is endued with so easy an elasticity, that the most trifling cause is sufficient to vary its bent—to raise it from depression to the hope of brighter hours; and thus, by a momentary process, without labour or delay, to supply vigour to the enfeebled spirit—to convince us that the past *has passed*—that whatever is, is right, and to spread out in the future a lively prospect, where the mischiefs which may be lurking to assault us are unseen! Dimitrio's ready manner of disposing of the Consul's character could not but excite my laughter. He judged according to nature, that abuse, under existing circumstances, was no bad substitute for an expedient which he had not to offer. The mind,

when amused, readily becomes animated, and the stage from thence to energy is short. Not wishing to expose myself again to a similar degradation, I resolved to prosecute the journey to Smyrna on foot, if a horse or mule could be obtained to carry the baggage; the four hundred piastres* which remained would be sufficient to carry me the four hundred miles, and I saw no difficulty, felt no heat, anticipated no failure.

As we sauntered toward the bazaar, the Greek pointed out the Austrian flag floating upon a reputable-looking abode, at the same time bearing testimony to the obliging character of the Consul. He seemed the most fit person to whom I could apply to procure a horse for the journey forward. His court-yard was spacious, as was also the divan at the top of the stairs, besides being cool; for having a window open to the north, and the boards watered, a continual current of refreshing air passed through it. His sherbet was of citron, and good: his pipes and wife were handsome; the former long, the latter short—indeed too short. His manner was courteous and gentlemanlike;

* About 4*l.*

but nothing escaped him which encouraged me to deviate from my resolution of concealing the straitened condition of my exchequer.

Dwelling much on the casualties that might fall out in a land journey at this moment, when the people, fluctuating in their inclination toward the Sultan or the Pacha, were freed from the authority of both, he laboured to convince me that the safest and best route would be to return to Tripoli, and thence passing over to Cyprus, a passage either to Smyrna or Syra would offer in a few days; from either of which places there is constant communication with Stamboul. He next recommended my going by Kelindre to Cyprus; and I was at length obliged to say that I had travelled some thousand miles to see the *land*, and had it been my object to see the *sea*, I would have stayed at home, where we have a much bigger and better sea than his. There are people about the world who claim the privilege of knowing your circumstances better than you know them yourself, contradict any one who presumes to have an opinion of his own case, and if their *assistance* is required, give their *advice: if you ask bread, they give you a stone.* The Turcoman was

despatched to fulfil my request, and the Consul invited me to dine at 11 A. M. The dinner was dressed and served according to Oriental usage, except that it was placed upon a table, and the party were seated upon chairs; a system which, though at that time I was little versed in, had not lost its advantages in my eyes. The Turcoman soon returned with a man who was willing to undertake the journey; and upon questioning him, it appeared that he would supply horses for ourselves and baggage for nine hundred piastres, and would be content to receive three hundred before he started, and the rest upon our arrival at Smyrna. With this proposal I closed. The agreement written and signed, the money was paid; but the man demanded three days to visit his friends in Adana, before he undertook a journey which appeared to him so long and perilous.

At night-fall I returned to the yard where we were first set down. The occupants were absent; Dimitrio had failed of finding any house in which I could lodge, and without horses at command it would be troublesome to convey our effects outside the town. Seated upon a stone, I was surveying the ground in order to

discover in what corner of the yard I might repose with best chance of sleep, judging by the evenness of the earth, and the absence of such substances as are not convenient in a bed. At this moment an officer entered in the cavalry uniform of the Pope, and inquired for the proprietors of the quarters. I had not seen them. "You are a traveller, sir?" he continued.—"I am." "How long have you been in Tarsus?"—"I arrived this morning with the Hakkim Bashi." "Where do you live?" —"Here at present." "But where do you sleep?"—"Between those two grey horses, if I may be allowed; for they are tied shorter than the others, and the ground appears more level." "I think you had better come to my quarters; the yard is larger, and there are not so many horses: you will find a better place to sleep. There will be something for supper; but we are in a wretched condition, and the town affords little: still, if you can partake a soldier's fare, I shall be delighted and honoured by your company." There was a modesty and a manliness in the substance of what he said that proved he was no stranger to hardship; there was too a sincerity in his manner and

expression which seemed to indicate that he had known reverses. Those ever fortunate are not ever to be most trusted: the brightest skies are not always the most beneficial to mankind. He conducted me through the town, elated at having met one whose external qualifications promised so fairly, and who had relieved me from the embarrassment of remaining for the night in quarters where I had received no intimation that I was welcome.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Barisoni — His Misfortunes—His Quarters.—Second Visit to Austrian Consul—His Wife.—Chasse aux Puces.—Game at Chess.—Dongdash.—Russians advancing.—Superiority of Egyptian Cavalry.—House of St. Paul.—Leave Cilician Coast.—Isle of Cyprus.—Want of Water.—Delay of Captain. — Land at Tripoli. — Apricots.—Headland of Peniel.—Sleep under Olive-trees.—Timseid. — Botrys.—Gibili.—Adonis.—River Lycus.—Inscriptions on Rocks in Ammunean characters. — Antonine Inscription. — Mr. Levinge. — Quicksand. — Maniac. — St. George and Dragon.—Reach Beirout.

June 15.

Barisoni, my new acquaintance, was the younger son of a wealthy family at Turin, from whence he had been driven into exile, and having formerly belonged to a regiment of dragoons under Napoleon, he had sought employment as an instructor of cavalry in the Egyptian service; and the miseries against which he was compelled to struggle upon his first arrival in that country, called forth the

warmest sympathy, as he recounted them with a simplicity that asked for no commiseration, showed no token of ostentation, and gave thus the best evidence of truth. With a liberal education, he had imbibed the taste and feelings of a gentleman; a conclusion not infallibly consequent upon the premises, as may daily be observed. Accustomed in youth to all the luxuries and refinements that wealth could purchase, in the bosom of his family, *now* banished and friendless, he was subjected to such privations as left scarce the necessaries of life to solace him. "There," said he, smiling and pointing to a few iron spoons and homely knives and forks that were thrown upon the ground for our use, "see there my riches; my comrades call me rich, because I have those knives and forks; they eat with their fingers like those around them,—I cannot." Though not dispirited, a settled melancholy rested upon his brow; and if a smile beamed upon his lip, it was quickly chased away by the gloom that lowered over his life. Yet the only complaint that escaped him was for the disasters which now threatened him, induced by the sufferings of the campaign. He had four times crossed

Mount Taurus with his regiment during the winter; and while men and horses were perishing in great numbers from the intense cold, he had not gone altogether unscathed. His joints, and particularly his knees, had become so weak that he could with difficulty walk; and the drums of both ears were much injured, and were growing so rapidly worse that complete deafness seemed likely to be the result.

Like all other Europeans attached to the army, he expressed anxiety to leave the service. I found him occupying a narrow open corridor, beneath which was his stable, and behind it two small chambers, one appropriated to culinary purposes, the other was converted into his sleeping-room. In the yard, over which the corridor looked, were tied during the evening and night his three horses; while the centre was occupied by a low square platform, where the family slept to whom the premises belonged. The corridor, when supper was concluded, became the dormitory of two other Europeans and myself: stretched at opposite corners upon the floor, we might have found refreshing sleep, but for the thousands of animals

of different genera which preyed upon us, and defied all the powers of watchfulness to detect and bring them to punishment.

On the following day I paid a second visit to the Austrian Consul. Madame his spouse crossed her breast prettily enough, and presented a pipe. Her hair fell in long thin plaits, enveloping the back; while her head was filleted with strings of pearls, and a large emerald hung upon the centre of her forehead. The richly-cut glass decanter of a sheesher stood upon the ground before her, from which she drew the smoke through a flexible tube or serpent of great length, covered with blue and silver thread neatly interwoven. The whiffs were periodically suspended as she turned up her long silken trousers, and pursued the fleas upon the calves of her legs,—which had so little symmetry to recommend them, that I was surprised she should expose them, unless it really was to facilitate the *chasse*. This lady was very expert, and rarely failed of catching her game, which was executed upon the frame of the window. She inquired if I had found many of the little things in Tarsus, and I assured her that I had. In the evening I

attended her *soirée*, where were some Jewesses, and a young Christian widow, very pale and rather good-looking. But before they left the party, their charms were concealed by so many shawls and silks that I marvelled they were not suffocated. The hostess challenged me to chess, and after the second or third move I began to reflect upon the next; when she told me it was not the custom in the East to hesitate, but to play off-hand. I did so, and was beaten in half an hour; and indeed I was not sorry to end a game in which I found little amusement.

In an orange-garden at the edge of the town are some curious ruins of antiquity, now known by the name of "Dongdash." The walls are of great height, twenty-one paces in thickness, one hundred and fifty in length, and crossed by others fifty paces long: at each end are large square bases, composed of small stones and pieces of burnt clay. There is no traditionary legend attached to these relics; and they bear resemblance to nothing so much as a Roman barrack with its *piscina*. Three instructors left to-day for Jaffa and Jerusalem; but one of them returned in a few hours, having fallen

in with an order countermanding his regiment, which had marched two days before. The reports in circulation varied every hour. At one moment we heard that the Russians had seized and strengthened the Dardanelles, and were advancing toward Syria; at the next it was said that they had retired from Constantinople, and peace was concluded.—So little certain intelligence could be obtained only a few days from head-quarters.

The cavalry at this time were exempted from all duty, that the horses might recover their strength after the fatigues of the campaign; and they were rapidly improving upon the trefoil and clover brought in from the rich Aleian plain. Each regiment, consisting of six hundred and thirty-six men, and divided into six squadrons, has its first squadron of white horses, and the fourth of grey. But from the predominant number of white horses that appeared in the pickets, the proportion of these must be greater than was stated; and as this is the prevalent colour among the Syrian Arabs, from whence the Pacha had recruited his cavalry, it is likely to have been the case. Reduced as they were to the lowest condition from hard

duty and want of food, an opinion might more safely be formed of their merits; for their points not being overgrown by flesh, the eye was not deluded by that sleek fulness which frequently misleads the judgment, and makes morbid inanimate matter pass for strength. The British artillery horses are among the finest in any service: but even they would ill bear this sort of exposure; and if they were let down in condition, there would not be that uniform mould among them which is now seen. But a body of horse does not exist in Europe so perfect as the Egyptian cavalry, and to which may be so generally ascribed all the qualifications that constitute superiority in the animal, and gift him with speed, strength, and endurance. There were in the lines a few coarse heads, but without any other indication of low blood: and this defect may have arisen from family connexion with the Turcoman or Dongolah horse; for I have never seen an example of a sour or heavy head in a genuine Arab of any race.

The church of the Greek convent is supposed to stand upon the site of St. Paul's house.

At the end of five days, which I spent not unpleasantly, thanks to the kindness of Signor Barisoni, the guide who had bound himself to con-

vey me to Smyrna did not return; and there was now no alternative but to go back to Beirout, change my bills, and make another attempt to penetrate through the country. Having recovered my three hundred piastres, which he had deposited with one of the sheikhs of the place previous to his departure, I went down to the sea, five hours from the town, in hopes of engaging a boat to leave the Cilician coast without further delay: but the Pacha having seized every bottom that would float for the transport of the sick, I took a passage in one of these, for which it was only necessary to exhibit the firman to the captain, whom I found preparing to sail the same evening to Tripoli, with two hundred and fifty invalids. The aft end of the boat was covered in, but the centre and bows were open, and the short deck being appropriated to the officers, I took my place upon it; and nothing could exceed the inconvenience of the accommodation, where no more room was allowed than sufficient to lie down in a crooked posture, without the power of stretching the legs or varying the attitude, except by standing up. The wind was light, and on the next evening we had made Dinaretum, the eastern promontory of Cyprus, now Cape St.

Andrew. The water was already running short, and it was declared necessary to land on the island for a supply; but as none of the crew knew that part of the coast, nor where a well would be found, this could not be effected until we should reach St. Nicholas, a small village on the south side. Instead of remaining near, the captain stood off through the night, and in the morning Cyprus was not in sight. Putting about, we now bore up toward the island; but night had come on before we reached it; and as it was not safe to approach the shore in the dark, we stood out to sea.

In the morning Cyprus had again nearly sunk from sight; and the wind being fair, I threatened that I would complain to the commandant at Tripoli, unless the captain reached the land and took in water that day. The lives of the men, and particularly the invalids, depended upon it; for the sun was insufferably hot, and having passed one day with half their allowance of water, they must now go through another without any, which to men suffering from fever or inflammatory wounds could not but be attended with ill consequences. One only died during the day. We made the land

at four P. M., and the boat being sent off, returned with water at ten.

This delay arose from no accidental or disinterested cause, and it required little sagacity to see through the captain's policy. He had laid in a stock of salt-fish, rice, &c. which, if sufficient time were allowed, he would have an opportunity of retailing out at ten times the price he had given for them, and thereby making his voyage a very profitable one; and, as we were five days on the passage, three being the usual number, our provisions were exhausted, and the captain's store sold at a great premium. Having landed at the Marina of Tripoli, I continued there until after mid-day following, when with extreme difficulty I hired two horses and an ass to convey us to Beirout.

Soon after landing I encountered an Arab with a donkey-load of apricots, of whom I purchased an *och* for half a piastre (three halfpence). The apricots were about eighty in number, ripe and well-flavoured; and if it were here stated how many of them I ate, it would be thought not less surprising than the small sum they cost. In hot climates, fruit does not entail that painful repentance upon the eater

which most commonly follows indulgence in colder regions.

After traversing the rocks near the sea for six hours, we halted at the post-house for an hour. Beyond this the road enters a mountain pass in the outskirts of Lebanon, the defiles of which assumed a more wild and romantic aspect as they were faintly shown by the pale moonlight. This offset of Lebanon ends in the headland of "Peniel" (commonly called "Capo Pagro,") overhanging the sea; which Maundrell conjectures to be the same that Strabo designates "the face of the God." A convent stands on the north side toward the extremity of it.

In two hours we reached a small open space, near to which a rapid brook complains in loud murmurs of its straitened course, and a few aged olives afford shade or shelter as day or night may direct the pilgrim to seek their protection. The animals were here relieved of their burdens; and each of the party taking the first article of baggage that offered as a pillow, lay down to sleep under the trees until awakened by the dawn. One hour farther, on the left of the road, are the ruins of a castellated convent or

fortress, called Timseid, perched upon a detached rock, the faces of which are perpendicular, rendering the castle very difficult of access.

The road soon after emerges from the mountains and returns toward the shore, where a deep margin of cultivation, consisting principally of vines and mulberries, indicated that we had entered upon a district where Christianity and industry go hand in hand. Here, upon the shore, is the wretched village of Elpatron, where anciently stood "Botrys," a town of some importance in Phœnicia.

The ass, upon which had devolved a fair proportion of the load, became so slow, that no common patience could endure the clog of his company. He was therefore committed to the care of the guide, and with Dimitrio I hastened forward that we might reach Beirout before night. At two hours from Elpatron is the town of Gibili, the "Gebal" of Scripture, whose inhabitants were those chiefly employed by Hiram as hewers of cedar for Solomon's temple. In Greek history it is known by the name of 'Biblus," and as being the birthplace of Adonis; where the "Adonia" were first celebrated—the most unlucky festival in the Greek calendar.

Fragments of marble of various forms are scattered about outside the town, with mounds and other signs of its past consequence.

Not far beyond we crossed the river Adonis (now called Ibrahim Pacha), by a single-arched bridge of considerable span, so light in its make, and rising to such a dizzying height, that it almost seemed to be unsafe. It was here that Adonis was put to death by the boar; in sympathy for which catastrophe Lucian reports that the river bleeds annually at the time of his festa, which Maundrell observed to arise from the red earth washed into it by the rains. I looked in vain for the *anemone*, as it would have been a valuable offering to our horticulturists if some of the primitive stock could have been introduced.

At short intervals, through this part of Syria, small huts of mud are built by the road-side as places of refreshment, where coffee, bread, and most commonly rakkee, may be obtained. Three hours from Beirout, the Lycus (Narh el Kelb, or Dog River,) runs rapidly down from the fastnesses of Lebanon, over which a light bridge is thrown half a mile from its *embouchure*. The rocks on both sides are perpendi-

cular and very lofty; and high up, along the face of those on the right bank, run the arches of an aqueduct which still supplies a mill near the sea.

On the opposite side the ascent is made obliquely by a series of wide stairs, and the rocks present a variety of tablets, with figures sculptured, or inscriptions engraved, in letters which I believe have never been deciphered, and may be conjectured to be the Ammunean character, peculiar to the Phœnician priests, which Philo-Byblius upon Sanchoniathon says *were known to few.* Such is Borchart's explanation of his words; who also remarks, that "the Ammunean character is that used in sacred writings."*

There is one inscription in bold well-formed Roman letters that would do credit to our own heroes of the blacking-bottle, recording that Antoninus made the road; which might well be a subject of boast to the engineer, but is very discreditable to those whose duty it may be to keep it in repair. After the closest examination which I could give to the figures on

* Euseb. Præp. Evang. l. 1. c. 9. Borchart, Georg. Sac. Orig. Sacr. l. 1. c. 6.

the rocks, there did not appear to be any ground for concluding that they could be referred to the same mythology as those of Egypt. Mr. Levinge, however, an English traveller of great intelligence, whom I met at Aleppo, and who was as recently from Egypt as myself, told me that he had unquestionably found one figure with the lozenge in front, according to the usual Egyptian method, containing the hieroglyphic name of Rameses, and which he conjectured might be one of those memorials of conquest set up by Sesostris.*

At two hours from Beirout, the road lying along the shore, we were riding near the sea, where the sand is generally hardest, and were about to cross the mouth of a small stream, when my horse sunk suddenly into a quicksand, and had he been composed solely of legs, would probably have continued to sink for some time longer; but his body coming in contact with the surface, was not so easily swallowed, and prevented his entire disappearance. In consequence of wearing a wide easy pair of boots, the sand did not admit me further than

* These are called by Heredotus στυλοι, "*columns*," which term does not seem applicable to engravings upon a rock.

the knees; and pulling at the horse's bridle to get his head up and aid his struggles, the head-stall gave way and came off in my hand, while the sea broke over him, to the great detriment of my bed-gear, which was bound upon the saddle. Dimitrio, in the mean time, who was sufficiently far behind to have got clear of the difficulty had he been upon his guard, with his wonted carelessness had not even the reins in his hand, and his horse walking into the same trap, prostrated him upon his face, and soused him from head to foot: but of this I should not have complained, unless he had carried with him my gun, which did not stand in need of sea-bathing.

Going forward, we met a party conducting a wretched maniac, distracted with frenzy fearful to contemplate. He was about thirty-five years of age and very athletic; and being seated upon a mule, his legs were bound as near together under the belly as they could be brought; while his hands were tied to the saddle in front, and another rope round his body was fastened behind. The sounds that he uttered were incoherent, and scarcely any words were distinctly articulated; while his eyes were con-

stantly raised toward heaven, and his attendants applied to me for aid, hoping that I was a hakkim. There was an expression upon his countenance which betrayed an inward agony of soul, such as I have never seen even in the dungeons of Cairo or Constantinople, where the treatment of the patients alone might seem sufficient to infuriate a mind not labouring under insanity. Six men were with him, who said that when not bound they were unable to hold him. They considered him to be possessed with a devil, and were taking him to a convent in Mount Lebanon, where the prayers of the church would be put up for him; and if these proved ineffectual, they should despair of his recovery.

Beirout now lay in full view before us. Its white edifices, sloping up from the sea, are encompassed by vineyards and mulberry gardens, stretching away to the sides of Lebanon. Near the town, a hundred yards to the right of the road, is a small mosque, built upon the spot where St. George killed the dragon.

There is no town in Syria where the benefits of European intercourse may be so clearly traced as at Beirout, both in the wealth which is

collected there, and in the improved condition of the people in the comforts and luxuries of life. The monotony of cultivation is broken by numerous villas, which show themselves upon the little knolls about the town, varying the landscape, and serving as retreats for the citizens. His Majesty's Consul-general of Syria occupied one of these, which, besides being handsomely furnished, and standing in a garden where roses and other flowers were blooming in richest attire, commanded a view of the majestic Lebanon, the summits of which were still streaked with snow. It was sunset when we reached the gate.

CHAPTER XXX.

Mr. Abbot.—Unpleasant Sensations at the prospect of sleeping in a House.—Malaria—Its peculiarities.—Sagacity of Locandiere.—Visit from Mr. Stevens.—Leave Beirout.—Sailors fall asleep.—Latikía.—Shoogle.—Bathe in Orontes.—Practice of the Arabs during Harvest.—Modesty of the Women.—Locusts.—Ridge of Belus.—Great Plain.—Gazelles.—Tumuli—The same observed in other Countries—One opened in Nubia.—Suspected Robbers.

June 28.

MR. ABBOT, the Consul of Beirout, having taken possession of the locanda for his private residence, the padrone, a Greek, was establishing himself in a new and homelier house in the interior of the town,—deficient in air, and abounding at that time in bricks, mortar, and whitewash.

My bed was about to be prepared in a small chamber; but having been so long accustomed to sleep canopied by the heavens, and curtained by the falling dews, or sheltered only by the

tent, the prospect of a bed in a confined room gave rise to most unpleasant sensations: the walls seemed as though they were meeting to apply a press to my head, and I ordered a mattress to be thrown down upon the roof. It was a subject of surprise to me, upon waking in the morning, to find few of the neighbouring house-tops occupied in the same way. The locandiere accounted for this, by saying that malaria prevailed there to a great extent in the summer months.

There are few places which, to one unacquainted with facts, would seem more likely to enjoy a pure and salubrious air than Beirout. Standing upon a rising ground, it is blown upon by the breezes from Lebanon, and washed on one side by the sea; while the surrounding country, dry, and swelling into hills, and highly cultivated, cannot engender any of those pestilential vapours which are exhaled from low, wet, and neglected land. But malaria is one of those hidden things of nature which have hitherto baffled the efforts of science to trace its origin.*

Man alone is the victim upon which it fixes:

* M. Bunsen, the Prussian Ambassador at Rome, who has probably examined its causes with more care, perseverance,

indeed, all nature beside appears to gain vigour from its deadly blast. The cattle which feed upon the Pontine Marshes exhibit a more than ordinary proportion of flesh and sleekness; and the herbage is not inferior to the rankest and strongest in any of the rich vales of our own country. But morass is not essential to the production of malaria; for its ravages are not less malignant throughout the Campagna of Rome, than at Forum, Appii, and Ostia. Yet, in traversing the former district so early as the month of April, I have found the surface dry, hard, and even cracked; and, as the pestilence does not appear until the end of July, all moisture must then be entirely exhausted.

Upon my inquiring about breakfast, mine host made a reply which deserves to be recorded for its more than ordinary sagacity: "The coffee, fruit, and eggs, sir, are ready; but not *the kidneys*." This evinced an acquaintance with the English character in general, and with my own in particular, which surprised me exceedingly, and, indeed, did in some degree alarm

and success than any other investigator in Europe, told me that he did not feel thoroughly satisfied that he had laid open the germ of its existence.

me. It could scarcely be intuition; and I began to suspect that my skull exhibited some preposterous bump, some protuberant craniological conformation indicative of *kidneytiveness*, and I desired to be informed how he could possibly have learnt that I affected "*kidneys*" at that particular time of day. He told me that he had travelled with two Englishmen, and that they had daily breakfasted on kidneys or beefsteaks; and that some English travellers were led to remain a month in his house by the good fare which he set before them, and they followed the same rule. Whoever it was that initiated this Greek into the mystery of broiling a kidney, is entitled to the thanks of all Syrian travellers; besides having conferred a lasting benefit on the man himself, who thus wins the hearts of his guests, while they are induced to forego for a time the excitements of travelling, for the more substantial benefits of breakfasting.

Before his incomparable kidneys had vanished, the captain of an Italian brig came to inform me that he should sail for Smyrna in fourteen days; and having no prospect of accomplishing the journey by land, I had thoughts of

taking a passage. The Greek was requested to engage horses for the following day to visit Lady Hester Stanhope, whose residence was eight hours distant, and I promised myself ample time to examine the ruins of Berytus and the neighbouring towns of the Druses. The guide arrived with the baggage at ten o'clock, and I was preparing to attend Divine service at the Consul's, when my visions were destined to be dispelled by the announcement that an Englishman wished to see me.

Without giving me time to assume my shirt, (albeit my nether man was clothed,) he rushed into the chaos of letters, papers, rags, saddle-bags, and linen, and inquired if I had been at Aleppo. He seemed to doubt my repeated assertion that I had not; and next asked if I was a Catholic, and appeared equally incredulous of my denial, as he had heard that I *was:* lastly, he requested my name, and upon this merely soliloquised that "it was very odd." "Well, sir?" continued he, "have you any objection to go to Aleppo?"—"The greatest sir," said I. "I have," he replied, "most important business at Aleppo, and you are the only man in Syria who can assist me; and if

I lose this opportunity, another may not occur for six months."—"Sir," said I, "Aleppo is twelve days from hence; I have an opportunity of leaving this port in fourteen, and if I lose this opportunity, another may not occur for six months." His own argument, when turned against himself, lost its validity; and when made acquainted with the cause of his importunity, I was compelled to accede,* upon his engaging to start the same night, and to conform himself to my pace in travelling.

By eight o'clock P.M. we were under weigh in an open boat, with a fair wind, which appeared to be the speediest manner of reaching Latikía. About mid-day on Monday, wind light, passed within the Island of Rouad (Aradus), where our captain attempted to land, in order to dispose of some pots with which he had freighted the boat without our knowledge; but being threatened with immediate immersion if he stood from his course, we passed about fifty yards to the east of the island, and a

* This gentleman's daughter had been for some time betrothed, and was of course anxious to complete the happiness of her *inamorato* by putting herself in his possession: this was the object of my visit to Aleppo.

shore-boat being lashed alongside, the pots were put on board without shortening sail.

These valuables, however, were not to be trusted alone, and the captain sent with them one of the hands, to which we did not submit without some trifling remonstrance; for it was obvious that, being left with the captain and a lad only, there would be no relief-watch at night, and we might thereby get into difficulties.

About a league to the north of the island, we fell in with a very pretty fleet of sponge-fishers, of forty sail, belonging to the islands of the Archipelago, which during the summer ply their occupation along the coast, sheltering in bad weather in Tortosa, Rouad, or the small bays of the Syrian shore.

Having taken the helm at nightfall, that the two sailors might sleep, it became necessary to call them at midnight to shift the sails, in consequence of the wind changing; when they proposed to relieve me. But I had been asleep little more than an hour, when I was awakened by an extraordinary rocking motion of the boat, and found the sail hugging the mast, our bows turned to the south instead of the north, the captain snoring at the bottom,

and the boy fallen, like Palinurus, from the tiller, lay in a profound sleep where he fell; while the tide had set us so near the breakers, that immediate exertion was necessary to put the boat in safety.

The wind dropped toward morning, and taking to the oars, we reached Latikía at ten A. M. and hastened to the house of the Consul, who, after trying in vain every device to detain us, despatched his janissary in search of conveyance; and having dined at mid-day, we set forward at three P. M. with four mules and the same guide who had before conducted me to Antioch.

At six o'clock we came up with some Arabs who were boiling their "tangera" upon the bank of a small brook, where they had settled themselves for the night. Being acquainted with our *conducteur*, they invited him to do the same; representing, as usual, the dangers of the road, and offering their services as an escort in the morning. He was easily persuaded, and not without severe treatment again dissuaded, and compelled to relinquish his hold of our bridles. Having done so, the animal became perfectly rabid, and made as though he

would have returned to Latikía; but finding that we pursued our journey, and that his bellowings and gestures excited only our laughter, he soon rejoined us, giving no more trouble as long as he remained in our service; and we pitched for the night two hours beyond.

The country that we were traversing presented as few visible features of interest as any in Syria. Our route lay among low and all-but-uncultivated hills, where the ill-directed labour of man had done no more than enough to expose the stubbornness of Nature, which seemed to testify the effectiveness of the recorded edict against him, that not without "the sweat of his brow shall he eat bread." A few patches of sickly barley, choked by a low thorny plant,* afforded the sole traces of man's being and handicraft; and the monotony of our ride was only occasionally relieved by a slough or a morass, which required caution to pass without an adventure — never so ill-timed as when travelling in haste with loaded mules.

On the second evening, at sunset, we reached

* Matth. xiii. 7.

the town of Shoogle, where a level bridge, one hundred and fifty yards in length, bestrides the Orontes with thirteen arches. As we passed, an Arab was in the very act of unhooking a fish four pounds' weight, while another was kicking beside him. In form they resembled the chub, but in colour a carp. We gave three-pence for the two; and they proved excellent eating, the flesh being white and rich like an eel: but whether it was a fish of this kind that gave poor Dr. Shaw the stomach-ache at the same place, he has omitted to specify.

Above the bridge, the river flows through a number of narrow channels, forming as many small aits overgrown with sedge. Having made arrangements for passing the night upon the turf on the right bank, we needed to wash away the remembrance of the heat we had experienced through the day. Mr. Stevens returned to the town to be shampooed and shaved, and I wandered up the side of the river to find a convenient place for a plunge. The Orontes here runs rapidly over a gravelly bottom, but was at this time so shallow for the distance of a mile, as nowhere to reach three feet; and I was compelled to return below the

bridge, where the water was deep, and my object easily attained. The rocks on the right side are perforated with sepulchral caverns, differing in no respect from those devoted to a similar purpose in other parts of Syria.

It was now the season of harvest, and the Arabs, who were busily employed upon the low plains to the north of the Orontes, as they saw us pass, generally detached one from their party to salute us with an offering of the first-fruits of their labour, and to solicit in return a trifling largess, as a tribute of our kindly feelings toward themselves. It may at some period have been the custom thus to levy a tax upon the traveller, for the right of passage through the country — a practice not yet exploded in other parts of Syria; but nothing could be more free from hostility than the greeting we received from these peasants. A female was commonly selected for the embassy, herself the olive-branch of peace; and having placed a little bouquet of wheat in our hands, or scattered it over our persons, the request was made with modesty, and with more timidity than would be found in an

European petitioner under similar circumstances.

I have never seen reason to judge harshly of women in this particular, either in Egypt or Syria. To all outward appearance, modesty prevails strongly in their character; and I should much doubt whether their secret deeds would not bear the light as well as those of the females of Europe generally, if two towns of equal population were selected for the comparison. In maintaining that modesty prevails *generally* in the character of the Oriental women, the Almé will of course be excluded as forming an exception. Of these it is scarcely possible to speak; humanity is taught to hide the fault it sees: to expose them at all, is to expose them to scorn, and this would be to taint the character of our own sex with treachery; for by us they have been debased, and for our base gratifications they are kept low. No man of sentiment or feeling can behold them without abhorrence, or think of them without commiseration. Yet, if vice outweighed be vice extenuate, the exhibitions of the Almé, gross as they be, are deeds of purity and decorum, compared

with the gynæcean orgies that are perpetrated in some capitals of Europe.

The ravages of the locust were conspicuous in the corn through which we passed; and indeed the animals themselves, resembling large brown grasshoppers, rose in clouds before us, but never flew more than twenty or thirty yards; and, from their weight and formation, it is probable that without the aid of a strong wind they would be unable to extend their flight to a greater length.

The heat of the day was more severe than I had before experienced, and no trees were at hand to supply shade for our mid-day halt. A small cavern among some rocks at last presented itself, which being partly shaded by an overhanging fig-tree, induced us to stop. It was tenanted by a quarrelsome-looking bull, who seemed disposed to dispute with us the privilege of *entrée*, and none of the party were inclined to take him by the horns; but getting upon the rocks above, out of his reach, and opening a volley of stones upon him, he presently evacuated his position, bellowing out his discontent at so unfair an advantage being taken of him.

Water had been scarce since we left the Orontes, two wells only occurring during our journey; and though in the course of eight hours this might seem sufficient to satisfy the wants of a reasonable man, yet a peasant Arab considers such a limited allowance scarcely adequate to the support of life. Insatiable in his thirst, he would drink every fifteen minutes if streams or springs occurred so often; and his necessities are naturally so much increased by indulgence, that he is apt to complain if he does not find them. The Bedouin, on the contrary, whose supplies are more precarious, disciplines his body to the endurance of heat, until habits of abstinence seem to have endued him with a new nature. He drinks nothing during the day, and sparingly at evening; and then spreading a piece of his bournouse over the cup, so that the liquid filters through it, he is satisfied with any water, however impure.

Our guide was despatched to a well at a mile from the cave. The water which he brought was warm and green; but when converted into coffee, these two objectionable qualities ceased to be observable, and thereby lost their force. For cleaning the rice it was not

so well adapted, as it did not impart the brilliant whiteness which belongs to that invaluable little seed when well washed. The eye is the attracting link between the object and the appetite: it examines and reports to the latter what is congenial or otherwise to its enjoyment, and the appetite blindly follows its suggestions. The rice was not tempting to the eye, and though driven by hunger to devour it, the appetite found little gratification in the performance.

We had crossed the rocky ridge of Belus during the day; the descent of which required great caution, from the large masses that were scattered confusedly in the ravine down which our track lay, and the mules showed wonderful cleverness in evading or meeting the difficulties of the pass. Being left entirely to their own choice, they followed or preceded us as they pleased; and our admiration of these useful creatures was heightened by observing the sagacity with which they picked their way, and the adroitness with which they would let themselves down from perpendicular ledges to a lower level, or reach across small chasms from rock to rock, without losing their hold, or fall-

ing with their burthens. The ground continued to be rocky for a short time beyond midday, when we entered an almost interminable tract, belted with mountains before us, which were marked only by a hazy line upon the horizon.

In the neighbourhood of the villages, of which several appeared upon the plain, the land was well cultivated with corn, beans, and melons; while in the more unfrequented parts of it we noticed small herds of gazelles, which were always beforehand with us in making their observations, and were seen bounding away with that lively coquetry of air peculiar to their race.

This plain is a favourite coursing-ground with the sporting gentry of Aleppo, who resort to it for the purpose of running down the gazelles, in which they boast that their greyhounds are very successful.

Barrows or tumuli are visible upon various parts of it, either singly, or in small numbers, standing near each other. I have observed the same appearances upon the great plains of Caramania, in the interior of Asia Minor, but on a much larger scale; as also in those of Roumelia,

about Philipopoli. Upon the right bank of the Nile, south of Kalet Addé, in Nubia, similar mounds, though more conical, were observed, but not examined, by Burckhardt and Bruce. I opened one of these, with a view merely to discover its formation. The accumulation of sand appearing to be smallest on the eastern side, I had scarcely removed eighteen inches of the surface, when the interior was found to be formed of small lumps of hardened mud, evidently brought from the neighbouring Nile; proving the mound to be artificial. Of these barrows there were more than twenty together.

That such tumuli should be the cemeteries of individual heroes, or of bodies of men who have fallen near the spots where they are found, is the most plausible hypothesis, and confirmed by numberless authorities of antiquity. The larger sort, however, of those upon the Aleppine plain appear to have had fortresses upon them, like that in the city of Aleppo itself. Some ruins are visible near two of these tumuli, which rise close together; but the remnants are so small, that it was impossible to conjecture the æra to which they belonged.

The moon had long solaced our way with her

cool and soothing beams, before we pitched the tent upon a piece of turf near a village-well, where some merchants with their mules and camels coming from Aleppo had also taken up their ground; and considerable alarm was excited among this party, in consequence of a caravan upon the same route having been attacked and plundered a month before, when some lives were lost.

As the Pacha's troops occupied Aleppo at the time, and the robbery was committed at the very gates, the desperate enterprise was worthy of the Koords, to whom it was attributed, and had made them greater objects of terror than before. At sunrise we left the village, and had proceeded scarcely two hours, when, in a hollow toward which we were advancing, the tops of spears were observed, motionless, but disorderly, as if awaiting under cover for something that was to pass that way.

As the heads of the men rose to view, the Wahabee handkerchief was seen with its fringe falling over the face,—the head-dress which characterises the wanderers of the desert: I believe all our party gave up their property for lost; and I confess I began to calculate with a heavy

heart upon the possibility of a plunge in the Euphrates. Our best hope of escape was that we might be too insignificant a booty for these wholesale traders to lay hands upon; but we were quickly relieved from our unpleasant sensations by finding them to be guards in the Pacha's service, who since the late robbery had been appointed to patrol the plain for the security of passing caravans.

Their complexions and accoutrements were various, and their order not such as bespoke any rigid discipline in their corps; and I doubt if the banditti whom they were directed to watch had an aspect more congenial with the independent practices of the desert than this promiscuous herd of dragoons.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Situation of Aleppo.—Pistachio Grove.—Gardens.—House-tops.—Signior Picciotti.—Character of the Tartar Ali.—Contract for Journey to Stamboul.—Difficulties exaggerated.—Influence of the Moon.—Aleppo Button.—Ulcerations.—Conversazione near the River Xoik.—Levantine Girl.—Take a Turkish Tutor—His caution.—Depreciation of Turkish Money.—Convent of Cats.—Mohammed's Favourite.—Green Turban Men.—Dinner-party.

July 2.

BEFORE ten A. M. Aleppo* was in sight, and at no great distance. The town stands low, with nothing in the surrounding country that can add either beauty or importance to its position. The ground immediately about it is rocky and uneven, affording little produce, and none that is remarkable, except a grove of pistachio nuts, which, I believe, are the only trees of that description found in Syria: the vines of Chaly-

* The name "Halep" seems to have grown out of the ancient appellation "Chalybon."

bonitis have been rooted up by Mohammedan prejudice.*

Besides the usual domes and minarets which impart a queenly dignity to all Oriental towns, Aleppo is protected by a strong fortress, frowning upon the brow of an immense artificial mound raised within the walls. It is circular in form, and girt by a wide foss, and might present considerable difficulties to a force ill supplied with artillery; but when once breached, it would be immediately entered, as the mound is not so perpendicular as to prevent infantry from climbing rapidly to the crown.

The gardens in the environs of the town are shaded by gigantic fruit-trees of every sort, overgrowing each other, and watered by streams carried along natural or artificial channels, which diffuse their invigorating influence throughout these agreeable retreats: they are nevertheless far inferior to the gardens and waters of Damascus. The destructive effects of the earthquake which occurred in 1828 are most conspicuous in the outskirts of the city, where its extreme violence is shown by the

* The wine of this district was formerly so choice that the Persian monarchs drank no other.

demolition of a large Xan, of which scarcely one stone is left upon another.

The streets of Aleppo are wider, and the exterior walls of the houses better built, than those of any other Oriental town in the vicinity of the Mediterranean shores. The bazaars are well supplied, closed in at the top with mats and other similar materials, and differ in no respect from those of Damascus; but the tops of the houses have this notable peculiarity, that they are laid down flat with soil, which is well rolled, and an uninterrupted communication can be kept up with almost every part of the town, without descending into the street. The partition walls marking the boundary of each house have small openings or gateways through them; and there are paths leading in every direction.

The inhabitants frequently assemble and hold *soirées* here during the heat of summer; and when the plague exists in the town, the lower doors of the houses are barred to prevent all ingress from the street, and the intercourse is confined exclusively to these *high* roads. As I was wandering about upon the house-tops one day with an English resident,

and peeping down upon the hareems, monkeries, and other menageries of interest, we met with a mule that had been turned out to take his pastime among the thistles and grass, of which there was only a moderate crop.

Having reached the house of my travelling companion, I began to urge the immediate execution of the business for which I had accompanied him to Aleppo, in order that I might return without delay to Beirout, and, if possible, arrive there before the vessel bound for Smyrna should sail. We had accomplished in five days the journey, which, at the ordinary rate of caravan-travelling, occupies twelve; so that as there were nine remaining, this seemed no very difficult task.

In the course of the day, however, we visited Signior Picciotti, by creed a Jew, and Consul to the Austrian Government. From him I learnt that the Tartars, whose journeys had been interrupted by the war in Asia Minor, would again undertake to cross that country, and that one had already passed.

Ali Aga, of whose prowess and intrepidity as a Tartar much was recounted, being sent for, asked one thousand five hundred piastres for

conveying me to Stamboul, seven hundred and fifty miles, but agreed to receive one thousand; and an accord having been drawn up, he affixed his signet, and the deed became valid.

Ali was said to be the *ne plus ultra* of his race. He could take me to Stamboul in five days, if I could ride with him! He could sit seven days and nights on horseback without sleeping! He ate nothing but air! In short, it seemed that I had caught a Tartar; and had it not been for the hard condition in which I then was, some nervous feelings might have arisen at being matched against so formidable a character. However, he was obliged by his bond to regulate his pace according to my orders; so that if I could submit to the disgrace of a defeat, I might at a moment cry "hold hard," and secure myself from the chance of being left dead on the field. The Tartar was also to supply me with food and lodging, if either could be obtained.

My intended journey was soon known to all the principal merchants in Aleppo, and those who had connexions at Stamboul, waited upon me the next morning to ascertain the day of my departure, and to try by every

expedient to delay it, that they might have more time to prepare letters, &c. which would be entrusted to my attendant. I allowed them five days, which they thought would be very insufficient time for me to see Aleppo and its environs; besides which, the journey I was about to undertake was so fatiguing, that I should do well to rest thoroughly before I started; with many other arguments equally pertinent. But I gave them no hope of one hour beyond the time fixed. Notwithstanding, as the day approached, they renewed their suit, and even condescended to *entreat;* but to no purpose. Every new acquaintance whom I chanced to meet assailed me with a catalogue of the privations to be endured upon this journey, and concluded by telling me that it was madness to attempt it.

But the observations and admonitions of a Frenchman whom I visited were perhaps as little consolatory as any. He assured me that I should not survive it; that a friend of his, a *much stouter* man than myself, had performed the journey and died two days after; and that one other European had accomplished it, but he caught a brain fever, of which he died within

a month: that had it been winter, the difficulty would have been less, but in July no Frank could support the heat. But finding me resolved, he advised me on no account to omit carrying lemons, sugar, brandy, and rum, as punch was indispensable; and that whatever I might want to eat must be put into a sack to hang at my saddle-bow, in order that I might dine without dismounting, as the Tartar would never stop for this purpose,—an arrangement somewhat inconsistent with punch-making; and hereupon he suggested such a *carte* as no *restaurateur* but Grignon could furnish, and no animal but a camel could support.

But all this naturally increased my confidence. That two men had sunk under the journey was in my favour; for it was fair to calculate that one in three would survive. Moreover, his *stout* friend, who had been overdone by the sun, proved upon inquiry to be a *fat* man; and whereas in bearing fatigue every man's frailty is in proportion to his flesh, he might expect such a termination to such a task.

My kind host allowed me to occupy a flat upon his house-top during my stay, in prefer-

ence to being confined in a room; but the influence of the moon upon my head was so powerful, that whenever its beams reached me I was compelled to get up and move my mattress to some part of the hypæthral chamber which was in shade; and it was easy to comprehend the full force of the Psalmist's prophetic promise, "the sun shall not burn thee by day, neither the moon by night." The injurious influence of the moon upon the eye in Eastern countries has been noticed by various travellers. In passing from Messina to the coast of Calabria with Messrs. Wordsworth, Errington, and Menzies, the captain of our spironara had eyes of so light a blue as to be unnatural in appearance. He said it was occasioned by having slept under the moon's beams.

It is commonly said in the East, that none can visit Aleppo, however short may be his stay, without at some period of his life being attacked by a disorder called the "Aleppo button." But the Aleppines maintain that it is necessary to be resident among them at least six months to qualify for this certificate of having been there. The disease is an ulcer,

resembling an immense bile, which most frequently appears upon the cheek, where it continues for one year, leaving a deep and indelible scar. It is attributed by some to the air, by others to the water.

But Europeans rarely pass their first summer in the East without suffering from ulcerations, which, though of trifling importance compared with the "Aleppo button," are yet by no means desirable attendants in travelling. These in most cases break out upon the legs; and the fellahs of Egypt are very subject to them. They began to show themselves upon me soon after leaving Damascus, and increased so rapidly, that when I reached Aleppo my shins from the knee to the instep were richly embossed, and so painful that it became necessary to cut out the entire front of my boots, as it would have been impossible otherwise to move about: neither could the stocking be drawn up.

Although the gardens round the town are fertilised by the little river Xoik, formerly called Singas, conducted along several small channels, yet the people are chiefly dependent

upon an aqueduct, attributed to the Empress Helena, which still brings water from a distance of some miles.

Being invited to a *conversazione* that was to take place on the banks of the Xoik, at two or three miles from the town, I readily embraced so fair an opportunity of making some acquaintance with the habits of the better classes of Levantines, of whom the party was to consist. We left the town at three P. M. in a body of about thirty, some on horseback, and others mounted on mules. The women sat astride upon their saddles like ourselves? but being enveloped in a long black silk cloak, with stirrups remarkably short, no more of the person was exposed than the most discreet middle-aged maiden lady would think perfectly decorous.

The female saddle of the East is very long, and flat at the top like a butcher's pad; and while the seat is fixed as far back as possible, the feet rest in the short stirrups which hang from the opposite extremity.

Among the party was an animated young girl, with eyes of the deepest blue; and having previously met her and marked her dis-

position, it seemed expedient to settle near her as a *compagnon de voyage*. She was mounted on a white raxouan,* with saddle of crimson cloth. Besides her other captivating qualities, she wore white silk stockings and neat shoes; a pleasing novelty, which at once engages the attention in a country where women are always seen shuffling along in yellow Wellington boots, so much too large that it is difficult to raise the foot without walking out of them. She was gratified that they were admired, and showed a larger portion of her extremities than is usual; was enraptured with everything European, longed enthusiastically to see London, and wondered how any one could talk of Levantine beauty who had seen English women, whom she justly believed to be the most perfect in existence; and then she asked a thousand questions about their dresses, carriages, saddles, promenades, &c.

The country over which we rode was rocky and barren, except along the river side, the

* A horse that ambles.—I have seen some that would *run* eight or ten miles an hour in this manner. The pace is extremely easy, and horses well broke to it sell for high prices.

course of which was marked by a narrow line of green and rank fertility. Having reached a small plot of turf, running to a point within an elbow of the river, the party dismounted, and the animals being entrusted to the attendants, or tied to trees, stakes, and stones, we seated ourselves *à la Turque* as close to the water as possible. In this coterie was a Mussulman, by name Hanna Bakkray, who being a near relation to Sheriff Bey, the Pacha's Governor-general of Syria, much deference was paid to him; and the conversation was almost exclusively carried on in Arabic, in consequence of his understanding no other language.

Pipes and rakkee were the only carnal indulgences of the day; and after spending three as heavy hours as it often falls to the lot of man to survive, in consequence of being by some mismanagement separated from *la Signorina*, I was glad when the signal arrived for a general break-up, and we returned to town. These parties are very common with the Aleppines, and very uniform in the routine of riding there, squatting, smoking, and riding home again.

If the difficulties of a journey to Stamboul

should amount to one half of what was threatened, Dimitrio had given abundant proof that he would be unable to accomplish it. He was therefore to be dismissed; and as cooking and bed-making were not likely to be requisite, it seemed more prudent to be left without chance of let or hindrance from the knocking-up or tardiness of an attendant, and I did not seek to supply his place.

Some slight knowledge of the Turkish language therefore became necessary, as the Tartar spoke no other; and the little Arabic I had acquired became more useless every day in advancing toward Asia Minor, where it ceases to be generally understood. For this purpose I engaged a tutor, and applied myself steadily to get up as much Turkish as would suffice for the journey. Having written in a small book sentences and expressions to suit every possible circumstance that was likely to occur, I wished to be equipped with a few terms of displeasure, in case the Tartar's conduct should not be *comme il faut;* and I begged to be enabled to call him a "dog, a pig, and an infidel." The two former my Mohammedan preceptor readily gave, and admitted the rea-

sonableness and propriety of my request; the last he refused, upon the ground that, as a Christian, I could not with safety apply it to a Mussulman, however great the provocation. "Well," said I, "Caffir will do."—"Yes," said he, "but beware how you use it, or I would not answer for the consequences."

During my sojourn in Aleppo, the value of Turkish money was reduced to twenty-five per cent. below its current value; the consequence of which was an entire stagnation of trade. A severe penalty was enacted for passing it at a higher rate than the published value, or for sending it to Constantinople: but the temptation of exporting it under the protection of a European was too advantageous to be neglected, and a considerable quantity of Turkish gold was entrusted to the Tartar, who was directed to permit no search, as being in the service of a Frank, while I was requested to support his refusal if he should be pressed; but I declined giving any such pledge; for it is never worthy of a traveller to evade the laws of any country in which he may be, even for his own advantage, much less for that of others.

Having left an introductory letter at the

Roman Catholic convent for the superior, who was asleep, I visited an institution of a similar description for cats—except that celibacy and sexual separation form no part of their statutes. It was near to the former, and the fights and flirtations of this feline community were a scandal in the eyes of the good Franciscans, who were said to consider the cats most lax in their discipline. They had amounted to five hundred, but the plague in the previous year had reduced their number to two hundred. This order was endowed by some pious Mussulman, and an old mosque with its court has been given up to their use. So liberal are the provisions of the endowment, that cats, whether of Mohammedan or Christian education, are equally entitled to admission: neither are the benefits confined to worn-out or broken-down cats; but any one who has a favourite cat, or a cat that steals cream, or any dying person wishing to provide for a cat, sends it to this *hôtel*, where it is taken care of for life. Many of them were basking upon their grassy divan in the court when I visited them, others had gone out to promenade upon the house-tops; and having deposited a small sum as "backsheesh," I took

my leave, highly gratified at having witnessed so wise, pious, and useful an appropriation of property. There is an extensive manufactory of cat-gut in the suburbs of the city.

The superstitious esteem lavished upon cats by Mohammedans is derived from the partiality of the Prophet for one of these creatures. They relate that it chanced, upon a day when he was sleeping, his cat kittened in the sleeve of his abbas; and in order that his favourite might not be disturbed, he cut off the sleeve, and left her in possession of the bed she had chosen. Whether or not it be the Mussulman's creed, that the whole species "cat" has imbibed some portion of the Prophet's powers, from the above individual having received a fragment of his garment, is not told: but no stretch of credulity is beyond the reach of a Turk.

The prejudice against dogs, as unclean animals, is not less extravagant among these people than their silly fondness for cats. If a dog touches a Mohammedan after he has washed, he must wash again before he prays. In Egypt, there is a sect called "Shaffi," who, if the shadow of a dog falls upon them, are obliged to wash;

and if a dog touches their garment, they cut out the piece.

The wearers of green turbans (who claim kin to the Prophet) were a powerful faction in Aleppo, and had shown strong symptoms of a rebellious spirit against the Pacha, in consequence of his indulgences to Christians, and his restraints upon themselves; but his vicegerent Sheriff Bey had reduced them to order. Still their rancour was rather smothered than extinguished, and they were said to await only a fair opportunity, when it would burst forth with greater violence than before.

Among the gaieties of Aleppo may be noticed a dinner given by mine hostess during my stay, which comprised the best Frank society of the place. The occasion was one of family festivity, and the viands were of German multitude and massiveness. I found myself seated next the wife of the —— Consul, a sprightly little Levantine, whose communications were certainly not of the most moral tendency, but accompanied with such peals of laughter that she could have meant no harm, or they would have been made in a more *sotto voce* key.

CHAPTER XXXII.

Leave Aleppo. — Tartar's Dress. — Turkish Bits. — Women asleep. — The Route to Antioch. — George Dib absent. — His delay in procuring Horses. — Method of treating the Moosellim. — Leave Antioch at Midnight. — Quit the Tartar at Beilan. — Narrow Escape of the Consul's Servant at Scanderoon. — An English Captain. — Tartar rides an Ass. — Mustuk Bey's Quarters.

July 9th.

The time having expired, and the demands for further delay with which the merchants plied me having failed, on the 8th July the Tartar declared himself ready for the field.

The thermometer was at 90°; nevertheless the light dress which I wore upon my appearance in the Consul's yard, from whence we were to start, excited the sarcasms of the Turks, as being unfit to keep out the heat, and ill adapted for sleeping on the ground under the heavy dews. In the last objection there might be some reason, but it was not of weight enough to lead me to endure the penance of toiling

through the day under the oppression of superfluous clothing. The difference between the Tartar's dress and my own exhibited a striking contrast.

His under vests, which were numerous and thick, were surmounted by a long robe or surtout of red cotton and silk, flowered, and reaching to the ankles; while his legs were equipped with a pair of long flannel stockings many times double, and turned down over strong boots, to which the upper part of the stocking served as a top, being embroidered in the front with blue worsted. His waist was girded many times round with a broad sash of silk and cotton; and upon his head were three tarbooshes over each other, bound with the Wahabee handkerchief, the fringe of which partially shaded his face and hung down upon his back and shoulders. A short-handled whip, with a long heavy thong, completed his appointments, for he was unarmed.

A light sailor's jacket and trousers, elastic cotton shirt, and straw hat, constituted my own dress,—the most convenient and comfortable that can be adopted where exercise or heat are to be undergone. For nocturnal protection I

carried the capote, which had been my constant companion for some time, and which being fastened like a bear's skin across the saddle, served to mitigate its hardness, and render my diurnal position more easy.

Unlike the Turks and Arabs, the Tartar rides with a straight leg, and sits upright upon his saddle, which is long and convex, without the high back and front that render the confinement of a Turkish saddle painful even for a few hours. In the bridles of the country there is nothing peculiar, except the brittleness of their fabric, and the severity of the bit, which is provided with a large ring, falling from the port, and embracing the lower jaw like a curb. London saddlers call this bit a *mameluke;* but it is in universal use throughout the East.

Busbequius upon this subject would have been more intelligible if he had explained the nature of the Turkish bit, which at the present day is exactly what I have described, and certainly the severest existing. "The Turkish horses," he remarks, "run forward with a stiff and stretched-out neck, so that they cannot easily be stopped or hindered in their course but by fetching a large compass about; which

in my judgment is the fault of the bridles they wear, which all over Turkey are of one make." At nine o'clock at night we left Aleppo with four horses; the Soulagee* leading that which carried the baggage, and the Tartar placing himself immediately behind to urge them forward with his whip.

At the end of six hours we were to reach a village where it was supposed we should find fresh horses to proceed with. The night soon became dark and the road rocky, and the speed which I had been threatened with was reduced to a jog-trot. Any one who has ridden at this pace through the night, after a hot day passed in the energy and anxiety of preparation, will understand the difficulty of not falling asleep, and will be ready to make allowance for my inclination to quarrel with the Tartar for not realising all I had been taught to expect of his rapid travelling.

Upon arriving at the village we groped our way through passages so narrow that the baggage rubbed against either wall, and it was some time before our knocking gained for us

* The mounted guide who leads the baggage-horses and takes all back together.

admission at a wide, wooden, dilapidated gateway, into a small square yard, where several persons of both sexes lay sleeping upon the ground, with nothing under them except their mats. They took no notice of us, beyond moving their legs to make a pathway for our horses as the latter passed into an inner yard.

My anxious friends at Aleppo had warned me never to lose the opportunity of sleeping while the horses were changing, as this was the only repose that would be allowed me; and accordingly I lay down upon the spot where I dismounted.

A sweet insensibility was beginning to overshadow me, when my fair Arab neighbours showed symptoms of uneasiness by their chattering and laughing; and Ali Aga, returning from the inner yard, shook me by the shoulder, and beckoned me away, informing me that it was not fit I should herd in the same fold with the horse-keeper's hareem. I picked up my capote, and moved off somewhat out of humour.

Instead of fresh horses being in a state of preparation for our use, I found those from which we had just dismounted eating barley from small heaps upon the ground; and I was

given to understand, that as no others could be procured, the same must take us forward to Antioch, twelve hours further. I lay down near them, and, after two hours of refreshing sleep, we resumed our journey at five A. M.

The extreme heat of the day was rendered still more oppressive by the slow pace at which we were obliged to ride; and the rocky surface of the country, varied only by a few patches of cultivation, supplied not sufficient interest to occupy the mind, and thus fortify the body against feeling. Upon the sides or summits of the low hills, some mouldering fragments marked the sites of Christian or Saracenic buildings; and at four hours, a strong wall of massive well-squared stones, overhanging a narrow ravine, told of strength decayed, and its arched windows, which once lighted and looked upon the carousals of soldiery, or the festivities of jovial monks, were now privy to nought save silence and desolation.

It was mid-day before we reached the valley of the Orontes, as a detachment of the Egyptian army marching to Aleppo was leaving it. The road improved; and when the day was drawing to a close, the last energies of our wearied horses were called forth, and we canter-

ed merrily along the plain to the Roman gateway, which still remains unimpaired, in the line of the old city wall enclosing the gardens which surround Antakia. The distance from this gateway to the town is something more than a mile, and in a few places the road is formed of the large polygonal blocks of the ancient pavement.

Soon after six P. M. we reached the house of Giorgio Dib. It was toward the hour when his bounteous heart overflows with hospitality, and his board with the best of everything. Having slighted the advice which had been given to carry provisions at my saddle-bow, I had eaten nothing since we left Aleppo, and once only during the day had dismounted for a moment to drink at a spring by the way-side. The prospect therefore of a plentiful repast banished the recollection of Oriental forms, and I rushed into the court with all the unceremonious authority of an old friend. But instead of being greeted by the portly figure of the good man of the house surrounded by his wonted friends, his *hareem*, released from their thraldom, lay stretched upon the divan, which they had usurped in the absence of its

lord, who had gone to Suadia to visit Mr. Barker, late Consul-general at Alexandria. This circumstance caused me much disappointment, as I had hoped that through his means horses would be obtained to proceed the same night toward Adana. Mrs. Dib and her family returned to their seclusion, and Dibo the *maître-d'hôtel* laid out in the divan an abundant supper, which Ali and myself dwelt upon long and leisurely. The Tartar always associates with the traveller upon such occasions; and indeed he is treated by all attendants with a deference that is conceded to few other dignitaries.

Upon our arrival, Ali addressed himself to the governor for horses, but he gave no hope of supplying them; and a messenger was despatched to Suadia to deliver certain letters from Aleppo to Signor Dib, who arrived at Antioch the day following, and promised to exert himself to send us forward without delay: a promise which he affected to fulfil, but studiously deferred, that he might gain time to prepare letters for Stamboul. By the second midday my patience was exhausted, and seeking out the quarters of some instructors of the

army, I requested their assistance. From them I learnt that the governor had a particular aversion to all Franks, and that nothing was to be got from him except by compulsion, which one of them seemed gratified to have an opportunity of exercising in my service.

Hereupon we repaired to the divan, where the Moosellim was seated in full conclave; and my companion, holding the firman in his hand, preferred his demand. The same answer as before was returned, when the pleader, thrusting forward the parchment to the very face of the governor, vented such a volley of unpleasant terms, in such vociferous tones, as bleached the cheeks of the Mussulman, and prompted him to promise horses for the evening. Dib was chagrined that I had not depended upon him, instead of adopting the course which had proved successful; and he was compelled to redouble his exertions that his letters might be in readiness by ten at night, which I fixed as the latest hour for departing.

The Tartar had agreed to carry for him to Constantinople some effects which he described to be a *mere trifle;* but, when produced, they proved to consist of two panniers much

heavier than all the baggage with which I was already encumbered, and of themselves a sufficient load for a horse. When I protested against this addition to our burden, and reminded the Tartar that, being in my service, he had no right to carry anything without my permission, mine host urged upon me the hospitality with which he had twice entertained me in his house; that he was my friend, and should be always glad to prove it in the same manner, and asked if I could refuse him so small a favour. Unfair as this argument was, it was perfectly irresistible; and I submitted in silence, though foreseeing the delays which must ensue.

It was midnight before we got away. The night was dark, the baggage-horse greatly overloaded, and the numerous streams and ditches which intersect the valley of the Orontes combining to retard us, daylight appeared before we entered the pass of Beilan. Here we encountered a European trader on his way to Aleppo, by whom I wrote a note to complain of the Tartar's dilatoriness, and the bad faith of the Austrian Consul in recommending him; which I requested my English friend there

would lay before the latter, adding that I should renew my complaint at Stamboul: and then taking leave of the merchant, the Tartar, and the baggage, I put my horse into a canter, descended the sloping and wooded side of the mountain, and continuing at renewed speed through the myrtle forest, and the scene of the Turkish defeat in the plain below, I pulled up at ten A. M. at the Consul's door at Scanderoon. The Tartar arrived two hours after. My tale was soon told, and a janissary was despatched in search of horses.

The captain of an Italian merchantman had landed from the bay to dine with the Consul; and while I retired to perform the manual ablutions which devout dinner-eaters sometimes neglect, he had taken up my gun, and apparently unconscious of its propensity to go off, discharged it across the table in the dining-room. An Arab was at the time occupied in preparing for our repast, but the charge missed him and lodged in the top of the door; and while I reloaded the piece, the terrified Italian called to witness the whole calendar of saints and martyrs upon the danger of fire-arms and the good luck of the Arab.

It had some time before been announced that a brig was standing into the bay, which, from her square smart rig, was mistaken for a gun-brig. She hoisted the British colours, and the signal being answered from the Consulate, the captain came off.

His face was expansive, his complexion sunned, his person solid, and his years few. Requiring the aid of an interpreter, he addressed himself to me; and his first inquiries were about beef, of which his stock was growing short. Being told that none could be purchased, he d—d such a place as that; and added, that he "thought as much, for he had never seen such an ochre-faced set of lubbers as the people; he supposed the bullocks had all died of the jaundice." It was answered, that the Pacha had taken them for the army. He consigned to perdition "all Pachas, and that particular Pacha more especially: a British ship should be served before all the world; but he was sorry to say that the British flag was no longer respected, and he wished Nelson was alive, just to *show them the trick*." He had put into the bay to deliver some *colonnati* that were consigned to the Consul, to be for-

warded to Aleppo; but some difference arising about the exchange, he said "he could perceive that the Consul was a *screw:* he had been told to keep a good look-out, and he would not leave the dollars." He then returned to the subject of the beef.

Cordially as I agree with the reader in condemning the language and demeanour of this Liverpool trader, there was yet something so English in all he looked and said, as did irresistibly force upon one a charm even against a better judgment. England and all connected with her is so dear, that a fond partiality leads us to view our national weaknesses and follies with lenity, rather than be bereft of the enjoyment to be gleaned from intercourse with a compatriot, when a length of time has elapsed without it.

The English of the Levant can scarcely be considered *true men.* Their views, habits, and not unfrequently their feelings, have an Oriental cast: besides which, it would be vain to expect information about England from those who have been long settled at a distance, and whose only passion is the pursuit of their private interest.

Notwithstanding the Consul's exertions, two horses only could be found, which, with a donkey, were ready at three P. M. to transport us six hours forward. The baggage being laid upon one of the horses, I rode the other, while the Tartar mounted the ass, and, with his red coat and long whip, his figure could not fail of calling to mind the well-known occurrence at the end of a severe Peichley day, for sure a Tartar "was never so carried." It was nearly dark as we reached the barrack of Mustuk Bey; when the soldiers recognising me, related to Ali a shooting feat which I had performed for their amusement when last there.

As there was no chance of getting forward the same night, I sat down among the troopers for a time, one of whom was constantly employed in making coffee; but afterward I retired to a fig-tree in the neighbouring stubble-field, the wide-spreading branches and thick foliage of which I had observed upon my previous visit, and they now recommended it as a fit shelter for the night against the dew, while it was remote from the nocturnal tumult of these barbarians.

But upon arriving at the tree, and proceeding

cautiously under it, I stumbled against a recumbent cow, which rising suddenly and running off, roused a herd that had been led to the spot with a purpose similar to my own. Whether or not undisputed possession would be ceded to me, it did not seem advisable to occupy the ground without reconnoitring, which the total darkness rendered impossible; and returning to the barrack-yard, I lay upon the greensward near the gate, and placing a large stone under my head, slept soundly till the morning.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Mustuk Bey. — Second Arrival in Adana. — Punishment of the Bastinado. —Humanity of a Drummer. — Interview with a Greek Officer. — Wretched Residence at the Post-house. — After three days obtain Horses. — Ridge below Mount Taurus. — The Pacha's Road. — Beautiful Alpine Scenery. —Village. — Supper at the Sheikh's. — Pleasant Valley. — Streams from the melting Snow. — Magnificent Mountain Pass.

July 14.

The haughty Bey, richly attired, appeared early among his men. He passed me without notice, and moving slowly on, took his seat under a tree in the mosque yard, close at hand. The long conference which ensued between the Bey and Ali taxed my patience heavily; when the latter, returning to the barrack, signified by the usual motion of his fingers that horses would be ready shortly: but they were to carry us only to the village one hour beyond, where I had before prescribed the squirt and warm water for the deaf lady; and it was now likely

that there would be an opportunity of hearing how the remedy had worked, which I would rather have foregone, having no very implicit faith in its efficacy: but we were taken to a house in a different part of the village, where we were detained three hours before fresh horses could be produced.

The Pacha's flag was flying over the ancient gate in the narrow gorge beyond Issus, and the pass was guarded by a small detachment of infantry. As we approached it at sunset, two squadrons of cavalry were marching down the defile on their route toward Antioch; and the horses had greatly recovered their condition during their repose at Tarsus, for they now looked fresh. A strong detachment of cavalry had made their bivouac about the desolate village of Gurgula; and the blazing fires lighting up the tents, and pickets, and party-coloured dresses of these Eastern troopers, afforded an animated scene, as we passed through them toward the hill, to take up our quarters among the peasants and their flocks. Having regaled myself with a bowl of new milk, which the Tartar rejected because it was not sour, we couched upon the parched and bare ground

with cattle of various kinds. Busbequius has noticed the value which the Turks set upon sour curds, and his words are thus quaintly rendered by his translator:—"The Turks are so parsimonious that they don't study their bellies at all: give them but bread and garlic, or an onion, with a sort of bonniclabber or sour milk, known in Galen's time by the name of syllabub, they feed like farmers, and desire nothing more. This they use in the hottest weather, and when they are most athirst: and we ourselves found great benefit by it in our greatest droughts." And before I quitted the Turkish dominions, I became as fond of it as Busbequius or a native could be.

It was an unexpected piece of good fortune that the sheikh was able to supply fresh horses, and we set forward at three A. M. as the troops were marching off under the brilliant light of the stars. At Missis no horses could be obtained; and having advanced midway into the great plain beyond it, our wearied animals were turned loose to recruit their strength in a field of barley; while ourselves, reposing under a tree, silenced rather than satisfied the calls of hunger with some thin paper-like bread, of the

deepest brown, which the Soulagee drew from the pocket of his vest. Water was denied to our necessities; while the visible and liquid heat, playing over the arid earth, seemed to triumph in the exhaustion of nature. Our track led over a bridge which crossed the bed of a stream now dried up; except that a puddle, partially shaded from the sun, remained wasting under its arch. A cavalry officer was stretched beside it; and his attendants, kneeling by him, and supporting his emaciated frame, were watching the last moments of his life. He had been suffering from a wound, but continued to march with his regiment, until the intense heat had induced fever; and he had here sunk down to die, bereft of all hope of relief, and removed far from the accents of friendship, which soothe the throes of the soul when it struggles in parting with everything dear on earth. We remained with him for a short time; but being unable either to render assistance or impart consolation, we resumed our journey, and reaching Adana at two P. M. repaired to the post-house in the middle of the town.

The Tartar gave me the intelligence that

there were no fresh horses! The stable-yard in which I was destined to board and lodge was neither clean nor cool; and those who frequented it, not persons from whom a Christian could expect either assistance or civility. I loitered about the gateway, watching eagerly if chance might lead that way some Frank, who would afford me the consolation of listening to the relation of my present untoward circumstances, and perhaps point out some means of bettering them.

Hours passed away, but no Frank came by; and, with the firman in hand, I requested some of the numerous soldiers that haunted the neighbouring *cafés*, to lead me to the quarters of their instructors; and after some time a drummer was directed by his officer to show me a house where one of them resided. As I followed the boy through the narrow crowded streets, the sounds of punishment, and the low moans of suffering, were heard within a court-yard, the gate of which was open; and my little guide, beckoning me to stop, entered the place.

It was *natural* that I should follow. The propensity to witness animal suffering, which is

repugnant to reason and to sentiment, is yet so inseparable from our nature, that education will not subdue it, habit will not eradicate it, and by some fatal anomaly it is found to lurk within the fairest form and taint the tenderest heart. The maids of Seville cheer on the matador, and revel in the blood of man and beast; and where are the hearts so warm and so devoted as theirs? The crawling infant crushes and tortures the insect less feeble than itself, yet what breast is so free from the evil passions of our nature as that of "a little child?"

Upon a raised divan of mud in the gateway was seated an aged sheikh, the dispenser of justice, and in the yard before him was the criminal, with his face and breast upon the earth; while his feet, chained to a strong pole held at either end by two men, were raised to something more than a yard high, so as to expose the soles. Close at hand lay a bundle of sticks about fifty in number, each above half an inch in diameter, with which three executioners were fulfilling the sentence of the judge. The sheikh, dissatisfied with the manner in which their duty was performed, frequently raised himself upon his seat, and lay-

ing aside his pipe, threatened them with a similar punishment unless the stripes were given with more severity. But when the spirit of his victim still remained unbroken, and his insatiate fury seemed to spend itself in vain, the acting lictors were ordered to withdraw, and others were appointed to succeed them. Yet a few low moans and short ejaculations for mercy were the only signs of torture which escaped the Arab, though his countenance betrayed marks of extreme agony.

It was a spectacle at which the heart soon sickened, and quitting the scene, I desired the drummer to attend me; but, instead of heeding my request, he continued looking on unmoved, as if he felt pleasure in the sight. No sooner, however, was the tragedy concluded, and the culprit let down, than the boy ran to a jar of water that stood near the sheikh, and filling a cup, carried it to the sufferer, who drank it with the greatest avidity, and the boy instantly signified his readiness to depart. He had no doubt been present upon many similar occasions, and wished, as it appeared, to be at hand, that he might supply that which he knew would give most relief.

The sticks had been all beaten to pieces; and the man was now raised from the earth by two others, who held him under the arms, and compelled him to move about the yard. He appeared unable to put his feet to the ground, although his whole weight rested upon his supporters: but this measure is necessary to restore circulation, and prevent mortification ensuing, as those who are severely beaten occasionally die from this cause.

The European to whom I was conducted, proved to be a Greek, quartered in one corner of a large yard, upon an open stage of rotten boards, to which I ascended by an unsound ladder. He told me that all the Franks had gone down to Tarsus, to be present at a review of the cavalry, which was at that time to take place before the Pacha, previous to their going into quarters at Homs and Hammah, where they were to be exercised through the winter upon the fine plains in that part of Syria. No alternative remained but to return to the post-house, and wait with patience until Ali Aga should succeed in obtaining horses. Here I slept for two nights in the cleanest part of the yard which I could select;

but the extreme heat making it impossible to continue there during the day, I took shelter in the stable, which was comparatively cool. Having used all the customary methods to compel the governor to find horses, to no purpose, on the third day I wrote to Tarsus, to have a complaint laid before the Pacha, and toward the close of it the Tartar announced that horses would be ready that evening; and it would be difficult to describe the joy which I felt upon seeing five* clever nags led into the yard.

At six P. M. we took our leave of Adana, and having drank freely at the fountain outside the town, set forward at a brisk trot across the plain toward the mountains. The country was highly cultivated; and at no great distance was a vineyard, to which the Soulajee was despatched for grapes, while we went forward at a slackened pace.

Never did a few hours work a greater change in man's life than the last had produced in mine. Oppressed with heat, wearied with idleness, mortified at wasting time, and con-

* The additional one was destined for the transport of George Dib's panniers.

demned to waste it in the company of hostlers, no one consoling reflection came to my relief except the assurance that any change must be for the better. But *now*, liberated from thraldom, advancing rapidly to new scenes by the most agreeable of all conveyances, freshened by the dews, and fanned by the breezes from the snowy tops of Taurus, I could imagine no greater delight than I felt. At eleven P. M. we had ascended the low ridge that runs along the southern foot of the great chain; and the horses being turned loose to forage for themselves, with their saddles on, we slept upon the ground for four hours.

In the valley beyond this ridge is an excellent road, which had been formed by the Pacha for the conveyance of his artillery and the convenience of his troops. But as we climbed the mountain-side, it appeared that want of time had prevented his completing the task, which his perseverance would otherwise have achieved. The hewn and blasted rocks gave proof that he had cut for himself a passage through this mighty barrier; and the huge masses, crowded upon each other, and choking up the precipitous passes, evinced that no small

labour had been exerted before a train of heavy guns, and the baggage of an army, could be transported across it: and when it is considered that the men and beasts, exposed to a temperature to which their constitutions were unaccustomed, daily perished without number in the snow, the enterprise seems not unworthy the ardour of Hannibal or Napoleon.

We continued to ascend during the day amid scenery of Alpine grandeur, where the highest peaks of the mountains glittered with snow, while the sides were clothed in a livery of varied green. The oak, the plane, and the livelier mountain ash, were grouped with the stately pine or sombre cedar; and shrubs of lower growth, blending innumerable tints, finished the colouring of the piece, and reduced to a more pleasing aspect the stern majesty of the mountain. Toward evening we reached a village near the highest part of the pass, though far below the summit of the chain. The houses here are built of split pine or cedar, with flat roofs; and rising above each other upon the side of an almost bottomless ravine, command a romantic view of the opposing heights.

The appearance and situation of this village, were much like some of those upon the highest ranges of the Swiss Alps; and that considerable part of the population was Christian might be inferred from the well-dressed vineyards around it. The sheikh's house, overlooking the others, and formed of the same material, had a wide open corridor approached by a flight of stairs; beyond which were a few chambers, used only by the attendants; and at one end a large square platform, exposed on three sides. Here the sheikh was smoking upon his mat when we ascended. He was as polite as was consistent with his character; motioned to us to sit near him, and ordered pipes and coffee; but could not find horses until next morning.

As we were proceeding to supper, a Turk entered, with two Greeks in the Albanian dress, armed with guns and pistols. They were mean of stature and dirty in habit; differing not at all in appearance from the "Klephtes" of the Morea, and their occupation might have been similar. Laying aside their arms, they seated themselves upon the floor without ceremony in the supper circle,

one on either side of me; and no man ever was more disagreeably supported. A Greek is always the most offensive barbarian, in whatever society he is found. Nimble of hand and inordinate of appetite, groping in the rice to the very foundation of the heap, they fished out the largest and choicest pieces of the roast kid, with fingers indescribably filthy; and then burying the same fingers knuckle-deep in the sour curds, they licked them to their primitive brown colour, to be again immersed in the snow-white mass: at the conclusion, the whole party lay down to sleep upon their respective mats.

We left the village early next morning, and continued to ascend by a still more steep and rugged path than before. The descent beyond was gradual and easy to a valley among the mountains, where was an excellent road, keeping a parallel line with the river Sarus. Upon the turf several tents were pitched for the invalid soldiers, who, being unable to keep pace with the army, had halted for a few days to enjoy the pure mountain air, which refreshed all nature upon this enchanting spot. Toward mid-day we reposed under a plane-

tree, overhanging a torrent that issued in a large body from the foot of a perpendicular rock. The water flowing from the melting snows found its way by some unseen internal course to the very bottom of the mountain, and roaring forth in a great volume, made the Sarus, into which it fell, as cold as ice.

When water was plentiful at our halts, it was a great relief to my inflamed and aching shins to bathe them for as long a time as possible; but upon dipping my legs near to where this molten snow came foaming out of the rock, it proved to be so painfully cold, that it was impossible to continue more than a few seconds without withdrawing them: but I doubt if any application could have been more soothing or more beneficial.

The mountains, which are chiefly of red porphyry, rising almost perpendicularly to the height of some thousand feet, are as near to each other as the rocks which form the gorge in the valley of the Hollental: but these *symplegades*, being beyond all comparison higher than the Heershorn and Heersprung in the Black Forest, contract to a pass of unparalleled grandeur and sublimity, and form the *gates*

of Cilicia. A bridge is thrown across the Sarus at the narrowest point; and beyond it another stream of water was rushing from a fissure in the rock, whose course was marked by long linear cascades down the face of the stupendous mountain.

The valley became wider, the road continued good, and we cantered on till night, when the horses were turned into some barley, and we lay down to sleep. My capote soon became wet through, and warned me to seek a drier bed; but it was not until morning that I discovered the land had been lately irrigated, and the water still stood upon the corn, within a few yards of the place which we had selected for our night's rest.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Podento.—Cobbler's Divan.—Pitiable condition of a Blind Man.—Villagers retired to the Mountains.—Their Tabernacles.—Interview with the Sheikh.—Tartar's straightforward method of riding.—River Halys.—Eregli.—Kindness of a young girl.—Plains of Karamania.—Repose at mid-day upon the Plain.—Village of Arten.—Lycaonia.—Ismil.—Cleanliness of a Cottage.—Clouted cream.

July 21.

HAVING reached the northern side of Mount Taurus, and the confines of Cappadocia, the temperature had materially changed, and the night was cold. The village of Podento,* in which we hoped to find fresh horses, was only an hour beyond, and we arrived there soon after sunrise; but found it deserted by its inhabitants, of whom the only remaining individuals were a cobbler, a blind man, and a wretched being in the character of a mendicant.

This select coterie were crowding about a

* The "Podandus" of antiquity, situated on the Sarus.

good fire at the cobbler's divan; a convincing proof that it was not merely imagination which whispered that we had changed the climate within the last thirty-six hours. In twenty minutes, coffee was roasted, pounded, and made drinkable, and doled out by the host to all the party in the customary little *finjan*; when the Tartar hinted that our appetites required an offering.

Hereupon the good-natured cobbler reached down from a peg a handkerchief of most ill-omened outside, in which were bundled up the mangled remains of some veteran biscuits. They were of the colour of granite, and not more tender: nevertheless, half of them were set to soak in a vessel of water from which the artificer's wax was first withdrawn; they were next rubbed between the cobbler's hands to soften them into an aptitude to receive the element; and having remained in it long enough, were returned to the same handkerchief, gently pressed, and laid in the sun to dry; and being now fit for use, were set before us, and speedily disappeared.

"Faith, there's small choice in rotten apples."*

* Taming of the Shrew.

The blind man was an object upon whom it was impossible to look without the deepest compassion. Not only was his life one unvaried cycle of the deadest night,—not only was the pure enjoyment of "holy light, the first-born of heaven," denied him, and the charms of nature veiled from his beholding,—but his eye-balls had been torn from their hollow sockets, and, if I understood right, by his own brother. It would not be easy to heighten the pity-moving cast of this scene, where gnawing poverty, and the most grievous of all bodily calamities, were united with bereavement of friends. We learned here, that the sheikh and all the population had betaken themselves to the mountains, but whether to avoid the Pacha's army, or for the benefit of the cattle and the enjoyment of more salubrious air during the summer, did not clearly appear; but I suspect the latter to have been the case, as I saw afterwards several *nomad* encampments upon the lower ridges of Mount Taurus.

The spot to which they had retired being pointed out at two leagues' distance, we trotted off in that direction, and found their station high up among the hills, in a hollow removed

from sight, where the grass was abundant, water near, and the air delightful. Their abodes were rather *tabernacles* than *tents*, being formed of the trunks or thick branches of trees, split, and trellised together in a polygon, with a spiral top; and a tent being thrown over all, was drawn up so as to admit the air on whatever side the sun was *not*, and let down to exclude its rays on the other.

The sheikh was holding a levee in a large marquee, at the back of which a curtain was dropped against the sun, and cushions were laid for himself and two or three of his chief officers, while mats were ranged round in front of the divan for those who came to pay their court. The assembly was full when we arrived, and the bearded courtiers very politely hustled on one side to give us room to take our seats among them. My whence? whither? and why? were plentifully asked, but sparingly answered; and then, as upon all other occasions, the gun was handed to the sheikh to be examined, who told me that he had one of the same description, which I was not inclined to believe; but an attendant being despatched to the hareem, returned with a double detonator of

French make, which he had bought of some of the caravans passing that way.

His female establishment was *menageried* in a smaller tent at a short distance from the divan; and the double gun was no unsafe plaything to be lodged among the fair *détenues*, for the copper caps were wanting. Upon learning this, I presented the sheikh with a box containing five hundred, for which it seemed natural that some thanks should have been offered; but without making any acknowledgment, he snapped a few of them to amuse the company, and then asked for some powder, which I declined giving him.

This trifling present however seemed to produce the effect which I intended, in making the receiver exert himself to find us horses as quickly as possible; for ordering his men to prepare, he braced on his sword, took his pistols, and with a long gun slung across his shoulders, sallied forth to a village among the mountains, surrounded by a troop of guards well mounted, and harnessed as if for battle. • In the mean time a good pilau, and yoorgout* was sent to Ali and myself from the hareem, and soon after five small Arab horses arrived.

* The Turkish name for sour curds.

We were now at a considerable distance from the usual caravan route, which arrives at Eregli by way of Chikisla, farther to the north; and to avoid the delay of returning to it, Ali directed the Soulajee to make Eregli his point, keeping a straight line, without deviating for any impediments that might arise: an order which he obeyed implicitly. The succession of hills which we at first traversed were well wooded and perfectly trackless; nevertheless, the Tartar pressing upon the three leading horses with his long whip, forced them forward at a rapid rate, regardless of the bushes and brambles that threatened to unseat the baggage or even ourselves.

Upon emerging from this forest scenery, and pouring like a torrent down the side of a hill, the first variety of ground that occurred was a field of rye in full ear, five or six feet high. Increasing rather than slackening his pace when he neared it, the Tartar crossed it at speed, but with no Camilla-like step. The soil was wet, from irrigation, and the mischief that must have been done by the intrusion of five loaded horses there was no time to calculate. A deep ravine with a rivulet skirted it be-

yond; but the whip still wheeling over the spirited animals, gave them no leisure to pick their way, for, crowding on each other, and sliding to the bottom, they were driven up the opposite bank without a moment's respite; and then dashing into a field of barley, with the same merciless pertinacity which had led us to take the shortest route across the rye, we continued through a tract of ripening corn till we found a path leading to Eregli.

As we advanced, the chain of Mount Taurus and the Karamanian hills on either side receded, and the plain became more open. A few small encampments similar to that we had left were seen upon the high ground, where the grass was plentiful.

It had been long dark ere we crossed a narrow rapid river, that flows through the gardens on the eastern side of Archelais, now called Eregli; and the Tartar, turning his horse beyond the rude wooden bridge, rode into the stream, and tying the leather drinking-cup to the end of his whip, dropped it into the water, and drew it up full. This was his constant practice whenever a fountain issuing from the rock, or proceeding from the melting snows,

was of intense coldness; a fact which he knew by long acquaintance; for, however clear and tempting might be the water, if it was not of an icy temperature, he would never even stop to taste it, but going forward reserved himself for a cooler draught. The stream of which we now drank was the Kizil-Ermach, cold as the snows of Taurus, from whence it descends. Bisecting Karamania, it forms the eastern boundary of Anatolia and the province of Angora, and falls into the Black Sea. But it is from classical associations of "auld lang syne" that this stream derives its interest; for it is no other than the Halys which Crœsus cantered across in an evil hour, and lost his kingdom.

Eregli, which is a considerable town of Karamania, was nearly deserted; and the few inhabitants who remained had retired to rest at the late hour of our arrival: but the passage from sleep to a state of activity and bustle is a momentary process with a Turk. Wearing by night the same clothing which covers him by day, he rises and comes forth from his mat or cushions, with as little preparation as he lies down; and we had no sooner awakened the inmates of the house at which we applied for

admission, than our horses were taken care of, an open platform assigned us to sleep upon, and a dish of yoorgout and the usual coarse thin cakes set before us.

On the following morning no horses could be procured. The silence that reigned within the desolate town received additional effect from the heat which poured down from a cloudless sky, and before six in the morning we were driven to take refuge from the sun in the chamber behind the place where we had passed the night. The Tartar was employed during the day in urging the sheikh to send to the mountains for horses, which he could not induce him to do until a late hour; and as we had quitted the Pacha's territories upon passing Mount Taurus, the firman was no longer available, and authority must of necessity give place to a milder method of negociation.

While I was anxiously awaiting the success of Ali's mission, a young girl smiled through the grated window of the chamber, and looking around as if to ascertain that she was unseen, entered the door, and ran hastily to the spot where I lay. A visit so unexpected surprised me, and its object I could not divine, more

particularly as she had run the risk of suffering punishment if detected. Her purpose, however, proved to be one of pure compassion and kindness; for producing a small basket of cherries concealed in the folds of her dress, she turned them out upon the mat beside me, and disappeared as quickly as she had entered, without waiting to receive a reward, or even the thanks which she might reasonably look for.

Among the population of Eregli are some Christians; and on the day of my sojourn a *festa* was celebrated in honour of some saint, at no great distance from the town, and the few straggling votaries who came under my observation were drunken and very noisy. The town contains a well-built mosque of stone. At ten P. M. we left Archelais, and having reached a spot upon the plain where the track divides, neither the Tartar nor the Soulajee knew which line to take; but the tinkling of a camel bell being heard, we moved toward it, and received instruction from a party who had halted for the night; and trotting on steadily for three hours, the horses were turned loose that we might sleep.

Starting again by star-light, the view of the interminable plains of Karamania came on

gradually, and the desert itself scarcely presents a more dreary waste than was before us at sunrise. Far as the eye could reach, one parched unvarying tract was spread, broken only by a few immense tumuli, and covered by the coarse grass which withered on its surface. As the day advanced, the Tartar frequently swept the horizon with his eye, suspicious lest any of the marauding Turcomans, or more desperate Koords, might hover at a distance, and skimming across the plain with the speed and keenness of eagles, pounce upon us when placed beyond the chance of escape.

In settled and peaceful times, the dignity and office of a Tartar is generally sufficient to secure himself and those who accompany him from the attacks of the most lawless brigands; but just at this season, when the conflicts of contending armies had scarcely ceased, and the victorious party having retreated, had left it doubtful whether the evacuated territory could be occupied by the vanquished, no authority was acknowledged, and no one held responsible for misdeeds committed in the district; so that the badges which marked Ali Aga to be a government

messenger might not have commanded the respect of knights errant from the Euphrates.

As the morning advanced the heat became excessive, and the horses showing symptoms of distress, we halted, lest by urging them too much they might not reach the end of the stage. While they cropped the sapless herbage, it was in vain to look for shelter against the burning sun. Ali lay down where he had dismounted, first taking off the bridle, and dismissing his horse with a stroke from his whip; and the Soulajee employed this leisure time in catching the creatures which frequented his person. At no great distance was a small lonely bush, which afforded just sufficient shade to preserve my head from being baked as I fell asleep under its protection, leaving the rest of my body to the full influence of the scorching rays.

At mid-day we arrived at a large village by name Arten, surpassing in dreariness even a *belled* of Nubia. Low flat-roofed huts of mud were encircled by walls of the same material, crumbling to pieces. At a little distance, barren rocks were scowling upon the barren plain, and no trace of man, or

sign of his existence, was to be seen in the silent streets or ruined dwellings of his own construction; as if "the curse had devoured the earth, and they that dwelt therein were desolate."

The still expanse of the desert rouses the spirit of liberty, and animates and elevates the soul; but a deathlike silence in the abodes of busy life calls up the dæmon of desolation, and depresses the heart of the listening beholder. Our track lay through the centre of the village; and on the left was the shell of a magnificent Xan, the walls of which having been overthrown, left its corridors and spacious courts exposed to view. Its roof was once covered with lead, the greater part of which had been taken off for making bullets. Adjoining it, behind, was a mosque. Opposite the great gate of the Xan stood a homely fountain, where some travellers were refreshing themselves and their dromedaries; and we were conducted by them to a hovel in which an Arab reclined upon his mat, attended by two or three others.

This sheikh recognised Ali as an old acquaintance; and after we had seated ourselves,

coffee was served, and followed by a kid pilau with sour curds. In the mean time five fresh horses had been prepared, and we remounted at three P. M. Hereabouts is the boundary between Cappadocia and Lycaonia; and at this village we quitted the caravan route, and kept a more southerly course toward Ismil; traversing during the rest of the day the plains of Lycaonia, upon which occasional specks of cultivation appeared in the vicinity of a few tents or mud-built habitations of the Arabs; while the vast tracts of coarse grass were browsed upon by herds of female camels of many hundreds together: which being near the time of producing young, had been sent thither for the benefit of the pasture.

Reached Ismil at ten P. M. No creature was stirring except the dogs, who gave notice of our approach with a zeal that might have awakened the dead; nor were they bent upon expressing their dislike by threats alone, for having bayed round our horses as we made our way through the outskirts of the village, the Tartar no sooner dismounted than one of the pack flew at him, but being reproved by the heavy fall of his lash, was put to flight and

silenced, together with his comrades. After knocking for some time, the inmates of a cottage came forth and welcomed us to enter. The horses followed, and were placed in the next chamber to ours, or rather we in the next stable to theirs. The homeliness of this earthen edifice was compensated for by the cleanliness of everything within. The floor was swept, mats were spread, and some excellent cabobs, pilau, and yoorgout set before us. The viands would have been enjoyed even by appetites less keen than ours; but the clean tray which bore them, and the well-polished drinking-cups, added a zest to the repast, which more sumptuous fare without these advantages would not have afforded. Fresh horses were ready at sunrise; but before our departure a breakfast was prepared, of which clouted cream, sweet and very delicious, formed a part. Ali partook of it; and I mention this fact, because it was the only occasion on which I saw an Oriental taste milk that had not been previously soured.

CHAPTER XXXV.

Face of country changed beyond Ismil.—Water Fowl.—Leech-catchers.—Konieh.—Scene of an Engagement between the Turks and Egyptians.—Tartar's want of judgment in Riding.—Occupy a House—Dislodged from it.—Repose in a Marsh.—Primitive Cart.—Horse exhausted.—Yat Xan.—Antioch of Pisidia.—Ioucheen.—Village of Xan.

July 24.

Upon leaving Ismil, the face of the country had undergone an entire change. Instead of the livid plain which had wearied the eye during the whole of the preceding day, the sight was refreshed by the rank dark-green of a marshy tract, where a few fields of rice marked the cultivated spots, and varied by their lighter hue the general tint produced by the gigantic rushes which rose out of the morass. Flocks of wild-fowl of different kinds, fearless from being unmolested, moved about upon the water, or sailed by us on the wing. Spoonbills and snow-white

paddy-birds were feeding in the rice; and among the ducks some were black, with breasts of a copper colour, resembling those of Damietta. Their bill was very long, and curved like that of a bittern; and from their cry I judge them to be the same birds of which Busbequius says, that they make a noise like a postboy's horn, and that they are so strong and bold, that the Turks believe the devils are afraid of them. The horses were frequently up to their necks in this morass.

I observed here a group of women and boys standing in the water, totally inactive, except that now and then they raised one leg, which was examined and again let down. They were apparently very intent upon their occupation, and curiosity led me to inquire what that might be: they were catching leeches. Beyond the marsh were fields of red wheat nearly ripe, some of which the Tartar crossed in his usual straightforward way; and after this we entered a grass country, where the peasants were making hay by the most simple process: the herbage being cut down was left to dry itself in the sun, and gave no farther trouble to its proprietors until carried to the stack.

Iconium, the capital of Lycaonia, and named from the image of Medusa, came in sight at noon, three leagues distant, with the Palus Trogilus stretching from east to west a few miles to the right. The present town, called Konieh, once the capital of the Turkish empire, is the burying-place of several Sultans, and among the rest Selim, whose remains rest in a handsome mosque, the minaret of which, being cased with some kind of blue pottery glazed, shines like *lapis lazuli*. It has also one large cupola, besides others of smaller calibre.

At this place Paul* and Barnabas, having gone "both together into the synagogue of the Jews, so spake that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Gentiles believed," and in consequence the apostles narrowly escaped being stoned. Some low hills bound the distance to the north of the town; and the point of another ridge, running in a south-easterly direction, terminates near it.

Having kept a cross-country line during the day, we came again upon the great caravan route where it enters the gardens which surround Konieh. These are very extensive,

* Acts, xiv.

abounding in fruit-trees and enclosed within high walls of mud. The road leading to the town is not less than forty yards across, but the streets are little wider than those of other Oriental cities. They were crowded with people who seemed to have employment, and whose improved condition betokened that we had escaped beyond the limits of the Pacha's authority, and to a point where it never had been exercised; for though he took possession of the place, he raised no levies, nor did he make it tributary, and retained it only for a short time. Several Greeks, who wore the Albanian costume and were in the Sultan's service, constituted part of a small force which garrisoned the town.

Entering at a hand-canter, we pulled up before a small dirty *café*, and dismounting, threw ourselves upon the divan in front of it, where a mat was spread under a penthouse of planks which kept off the sun. Coffee and pipes were brought, and I received the welcome intelligence that horses would quickly follow; but such promises are always to be received with great limitations when Turks make them. At the end of two hours no horses had arriv-

ed, and as a wish to get forward was the keenest appetite I felt, a good pilau of kid which *did* come seemed scarcely a sufficient recompence for this loss of time.

We started again at six P. M. and finding horses in readiness at every station from this place to Stamboul, few delays took place, except such as occurred from the dilatory manner of the persons employed in changing, or from the Tartar's stopping at intervals to take coffee and smoke his *narghili* at the roadside Xans. Much time was lost in this way; nevertheless, the distance, which was stated at four hundred miles, was accomplished in four days, and might have been done with great ease in less.

The plain to the northward, in many parts well cultivated, showed traces of the encounter which had taken place not long before, when the Turks made their last stand in a general engagement against the Egyptians. Broken shells and shot were strewed upon the road; and vultures were still watching near the whitened skeletons of the horses, as if reluctant to quit the scene of their late banquet.

The Tartar generally commenced each stage

at a slow pace, and increased his speed by degrees; but in other respects he betrayed great want of judgment in the science of husbanding his horses; for he made no difference for any inequality in the ground, rattling up and down hill at the same rate that he would gallop over a flat: but perhaps his greatest error was that he never gave a pull until some one of the horses was exhausted past recovery, which frequently happened before the end of a stage, and much time was lost in shifting the burden of the beaten horse to another, when the former was turned loose; or we were obliged to pull to him, and regulate our pace by his.

One hour after leaving Konieh we were descending a hill at a smart gallop, when my horse fell upon his head, by which the crupper was broken, and the saddle shot forward, but it returned to its place at the next ascent. This accident caused me much inconvenience during the remainder of the journey. Entering a small village at midnight, Ali hammered with his whip-handle upon a door; but receiving no answer, applied his shoulder and forced it in. The interior contained two large cham-

bers, one of which had an open balustrade looking over the village. Here I lay down without a thought beyond myself, and was fast sinking to sleep, when I was roused by a stormy altercation between the Tartar and a woman who stood upon the flat top of her hut below us. The subject of their difference I did not comprehend, but the result of it was that Ali sounded a retreat, to my great discomfiture. The place of which we had taken possession was the sheikh's divan, as the Tartar doubtless knew; but in his conference with the lady he received some hints as to the probable consequences of having stormed it so unceremoniously, when *he of the neboot** should hear of it.

We mounted again, and descending a steep bank into the village, went forward for a mile, and halted upon a marsh, where the horses were liberated; and, befriended by the rising moon, I searched for a lair among the low shrubs: but in a few minutes, feeling the wet penetrate, I removed to a raised causeway that ran across the marsh, roughly paved with large stones, and very dry, where I slept

* Every sheikh is provided with a neboot.

until near daylight, when a rumbling noise like thunder came rolling on, and rising to discover the cause, I found a cart drawn by two bullocks passing within a foot of my head. This was the first vehicle that I had seen since I left Europe, (except some carriages and four at Cairo,) and it was the rudest I ever saw either at home or abroad. The wheels were circular pieces of wood, exhibiting as little device as two large cheeses, and the body was equally primitive in its construction. The same sound had broken the slumbers of the Tartar, who was now bridling, and the signal was given to set forward.

The road became good after leaving the marsh, and we galloped with little intermission for an hour and a half, when my horse grew faint; but fortunately we reached a village just at this crisis, and all had time to recover their wind while we took coffee. It was to no purpose that I pointed out the distressed state of my animal, from which the sweat was pouring down like water: the Tartar went forward at the same pace, and in less than twenty minutes the horse gave up. He was turned loose, and my saddle placed upon

one of the baggage-horses, his burden being shifted to the other. A few shells, shot, and camel carcases lay upon the plain near a bridge, where the Turks had been impeded in their flight.

At nine A. M. we arrived at the clean busy village of Yat Xan, where five horses were brought out and everything made ready with an alacrity that astonished me; but we gained little by the alertness of the hostlers, for half a mile further we were detained three hours while some kid was roasted and a pilau served.

Near to Yat Xan is a long narrow lake, flanked on the eastern side by low hills, and encompassed by good pasture land. During the day we passed several fields of white poppies, destined to administer to the indulgence of the opium-eaters of Stamboul, which draws large supplies from this district; and before six P. M. we dismounted at Aksheh (the white town), formerly known as "Antioch of Pisidia," to distinguish it from the larger city of the same name in Syria. In situation and external appearance, Aksheh is superior to any town that I saw in Asia Minor. Placed near a moderately high range of the Phrygian

mountains, it stands almost upon the margin of two lakes, with its mosques and whitened buildings rising out of well-planted gardens. The houses are of sun-dried brick, and the population, a great part of whom are Christians, displayed a variety of costume in the crowded bazaars; but the Albanian was most conspicuous.

It was here that St. Paul preached in so convincing a manner, that on "the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear him;"* upon which the Jews, moved with envy, "stirred up the devout and honourable women," and drove him from the town, with Barnabas his fellow-labourer.

Fresh horses came without more delay than was required to saddle them, and leaving the caravan route which passes by Afiom-Kara-Hisar, we took a more northerly line, near the border of the western lake, and continued at a steady gallop for about two hours to Ioucheen, where the Tartar was very urgent that we should sleep, being chiefly induced by the hospitality and social qualities of our host: but as the night had scarcely set in, I insisted

* Acts, xiii.

upon other horses being brought, and we started again at ten P. M.

It was very dark, the speed so great that I had much difficulty in keeping my place, and in two hours and a half we arrived at Xan. The drowsy horsekeepers, who lay about the yard of the post-house, rose yawning to take our cattle, and in a few moments I was asleep; but a heavy shower of rain drove me to seek shelter in a small chamber, where Ali and the members of the establishment were snoring together contented and contiguous as pigs. The heat was excessive, the insects numerous and active, and, after a short experience of this sty, I returned to the air and the kindly dews of heaven.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Peasantry of Xan.—Melons.— Pasture of Angora. — Sheep's Tails. — Issim.— Primitive Construction of its Houses.— Liberal Precepts of the Koran. — Seide Xous. — Restive Horse. — Reflections upon losing Carpet Bag. — Dorylæum. — Souxah.— Mysian Olympus.— Louka. — Nicæa. —Lake Ascanius.—Antiquities. — Mulberries.—Quarrel with the Tartar.—Severe Riding.—Gulf of Nicomedia.— Ferry.—Weak Horses.—Lybissa.—Tomb of Hannibal.— Cypress Grove at Scutari.—Infantry.— Beautiful View of Stamboul. — Disappointment upon entering it.

July 26.

A PILAU, yoorgout, and cabobs being set before us at five in the morning, received no mercy, and we left the village at half-past, when the bazaar was thronged with peasants, exposing for sale their fruit, vegetables, and other articles of merchandise.

Among the horticultural produce, melons were very plentiful, which in the northern parts of Asia Minor are of the choicest quality. Those of Nicomedia are equal to the melons

of Persia, the finest in the world; but had these been the very melons of Cachan, I should have considered the time misspent in tasting them while my progress was impeded: the air was growing cooler at every stage; the rain comforted my disordered shins; and the feeling that Europe was at last within a gallop, redoubled my eagerness to reach it.

We were now skirting the southern boundary of Angora, celebrated for the fine texture of its wool. The hills, covered with luxuriant grass, and shaded by thickets, seemed the *beau idéal* of a pasture country; and the enormous size of the sheep's tails* testified the fattening nature of the herbage. I was told that a tail sometimes weighs fifty pounds; but as I do not believe it, I would not be understood to relate it as a fact. This stage was long, and one of the sumpter-horses being exhausted was turned adrift, the Soulajee trusting that he should find him upon his return; which was a very safe venture, for the poor animal was no sooner released than he lay down with

* In Syria the sheep tail off in the same manner, and carry very little fat upon their ribs. The Arabs melt their tails into a substitute for butter.

such an emphatic cadence as showed a determination not to move until he should be compelled.

Two hours after mid-day, having traversed a forest for some time, we came suddenly upon the rustic and picturesque cottages of Issim, constructed as if uncivilised man, acting upon the first impulse of nature to shelter himself against the severities of changing seasons, had seized upon the means nearest at hand, and applied them crude and unlaboured to the object of his will.

These abodes were formed of the unsplit trunks of deals, laid horizontally upon each other, and kept in their position by upright posts, to which they were fastened. From the coincidence of situation and resemblance of name, this may have been "Ipsus" in Phrygia, where Antigonus and his son were defeated by the combined forces of Alexander's other surviving generals.

The sheik's divan, to which we repaired, was remarkable for its cleanliness, and himself for his courtesy. Swords and spears, with muskets heavily stocked, and inlaid with mother-of-

pearl, hung from the walls; and a bright fire burned upon the hearth, which was not without its charms, after we had been exposed all day to a heavy rain.

A short time before us, a Tartar from Smyrna, on his way to Angora, had arrived at the same place, for whom a good dinner had been prepared: he was in the act of washing his hands for the attack when we entered, and without ceremony or invitation, according to the practice of the country, we sat down to the same board. The Koran enjoins unbounded liberality, and to the credit of the Mussulman be it said, this precept he scrupulously adheres to,—at least so far as giving away cabobs and sour curds comes within the scope of the Prophet's meaning.

Left at four P. M. with five smart little Turcoman horses, and notwithstanding the immense ring which held the lower jaw of my nag, he made some rash attempts to get away; but his fire was effectually quenched before we parted company. This stage, through a broken but continued forest, crossed a succession of hills, and was performed at a gallop. At six o'clock

we came upon an old Turkish seraglio or palace overlooking the village of Seide Xous, which lay hid under the hill below.

The descent, narrow and extremely steep, was scattered with loose masses of rock; yet *malgré* the jaded condition of the *baggir*,* Ali continued his course with uplifted whip, driving before him the Soulajee and his led horses at full speed, and it was not without some disagreeable anticipations that I followed him. My horse reeled as if every step would lay him upon his head; a catastrophe which nothing but carrying, and at the same time urging him, prevented.

Among the five horses of which our cavalcade consisted since we left Adana, there frequently were not five shoes: indeed, the practice of shoeing is a deviation from the general habit of the country. A man unaccustomed to riding would perhaps see no peril in this deficiency, and a light-weight might disregard it; but as I rode something more than fourteen stone when mounted in a heavy Tartar's saddle, I confess that it cost one or two days' discipline before I was comfortably

* Oriental term for "hacks."

callous upon the brow of a precipitous and rugged descent.* I paid little heed to the colour of the rocks as I galloped down them to Seide Xous, which seems to correspond with the "Phrygia Synnas" of Martial† and Pliny, from whence the purple-spotted marble was transported to Rome.

We dismounted at a small Xan in the village, where the Tartar proposed to pass the night; an arrangement to which I could not listen, for the rain never ceasing to fall during the day, had penetrated so thoroughly, that not only my dress, but the baggage, was wet through, and the capote was dripping like a soaked sponge, so that exercise was preferable to sleep upon a mat or bare boards. Two other Tartars from different quarters had met at the same hostel, and the news they had to

* In Mr. St. John's popular work upon Egypt he has transcribed a note, in which it is remarked that broken knees are very prevalent among the horses of that country, and which, it appears to me, may be ascribed to the method of picketing them when very young. After passing Mount Taurus, where this practice ceases, I saw no broken knees; and in travelling afterwards from Constantinople to Belgrade with a Tartar, I made the same remark.

† Ep. ix. 76.

relate and to hear strengthened Ali's inclination to remain there, and rendered him dilatory. It was near ten before fresh horses were got ready: the rain had ceased; the night was dark; but the flambeaux of cleft pine lighted up the group of villagers assembled before the Xan to witness our departure.

The first horse being loaded, the other was brought up, and instantly showed signs of discontent, by endeavouring to break away; but he was in safe custody, and his attempt failed; after which he submitted without more resistance. His bridle was then made fast in the usual way to the tail of the other horse, and his head being set free from the hand, his temper began to appear without disguise. After plunging for some minutes, he threw himself upon his side, but was soon replaced upon his legs by the stimulus of the Tartar's whip; when he rushed forward as if eager to escape, to the great discomfiture of his leader's tail, which still held him fast. The Soulajee led forward the latter, and the renegade followed, kicking and rubbing his sides against the houses; but being unable to displace his load, he cast himself again upon the earth.

After being paraded about for some time he was warranted quiet, and the Soulajee was sent forward, Ali and myself following shortly after: but we had not got clear of the village when we overtook him standing still with his horses, and complaining that the corrected offender had returned to his malpractices; which was too true, for upon being moved, he began plunging and pulling with such violence, that the tail-knot gave way, and he galloped down a narrow street, where finding no outlet, he hastened back, causing when he approached us the greatest consternation, as the darkness made it impossible to avoid him: but he passed through without doing other mischief than overthrowing my horse, when he escaped out of the village; and we returned to the Xan, to await his pleasure, or start without him in the morning.

The recollections of that night's rest are among the most unpleasant that I can recall during my journey to Constantinople. Wet from the summit of my head to the soles of my boots, the comfort of a dry floor was perhaps not duly appreciated as a substitute for a bed. The gaseous vapour exhaled from

the steaming Tartars, and the smoke of their pipes, aided by the heat of a charcoal fire, made the atmosphere of the confined chamber almost insupportable; and the din which they kept up in talking over the events of their restless lives took away all chance of sleep, and drove me to such reflections as were most natural at the moment.

The more we are thrown upon ourselves, the more dear do we become in our own esteem. Freed from the bond of social duties and affections, we return to the elementary impulses of natural existence, and self is the object of everything we say, think, or do. Some one object, or it may be two, dear and distant, will at times steal into the recesses of the heart, and whisper it away; but even these cannot long estrange us from that more engrossing being *ourself*, and that which appertaineth to us.

My thoughts, as might be expected, flew heavy and sorrowing after my flying baggage. Among other items, a carpet-bag had taken its departure, carrying with it my entire stock of shirts, together with some other trifles equally indispensable to a dressed man. This veteran sack, which had supplied my wants in number-

less emergencies, and accompanied me through some perils, had been brought to life in some one of the populous and peaceful retreats in the vicinity of Regent Street, and was now hurried, like Mazeppa, over rocks and precipices, to end its existence, perhaps, upon the lonely banks of the Euphrates; a misfortune that could not be thought of without emotion. But in two hours I was released from anxiety by the glad tidings that the baggage had been found, though the horse was still missing.

Started again before four A. M. and rode hard to Eski-Sheh, the Dorylæum of Pliny, where we changed, and proceeded without loss of time. I was here mounted on a small thick chestnut horse, whose points, though unimpeachable, left him very deficient in speed, for the further we galloped the more ground he lost; and notwithstanding the persuasive manner in which I urged him, he had fallen a mile behind the party, when I saw them enter a forest, and disappear. Fortunately, he was well supplied with wind and condition; and though my redoubled energies could add nothing to his speed, he showed no disposition to *shut up*. The late rains rendered the marks

of the horses distinguishable, or I might have found difficulty in following, owing to the numerous tracks which intersected the wood; and I came up with them halting at a hut where pipes and coffee were to be had. Here I compelled the Soulajee to exchange horses, and we proceeded at the same pace to the town of Souxah, where the peasants were busily trafficking in fruit, vegetables, and the cottons of Manchester. As we sat under a thick plane-tree, in the most frequented part of the bazaar, waiting for fresh horses, the improved appearance of the people bespoke that we were advancing toward the centre of the Sultan's dominions.

After a finjan of strong coffee, and half an hour's rest, we renewed our journey at six P.M. and entered the extremity of the Mysian Olympus, where the torrents and cascades, swollen by the late rains, added much to the wildness of the scenery.

Arrived at Louka at ten, and lodged upon a dry floor. Left it before daylight, (streets extremely narrow,) and continued among the mountains to Isnic, which we reached at seven A. M.

This town, anciently called Antigonia and Nicæa, happily situated at the head of Lake Ascanius, is tempered by the breezes and enriched by the fertility of Olympus, which encircles it; but the site is all that it retains of what once was so delectable. The imperial splendour of the Bithynian capital is cropped, and the wasted city is contracted to a rude village, shrinking within the circle of the old walls, which still stand to mock its decrepitude, and triumph in its fall.

The walls remain most perfect on the side next the lake, where are also some towers and an ancient gateway: but there is another in better preservation on the opposite side, inscribed to Antoninus, near to which are remnants of shafts, capitals, and cornices of Grecian order. The hall in which Constantine, in 325, convened the first general council against the Arian heresy, was existing in the sixteenth century,* but has now disappeared.

As I was making my toilet at a fountain in the street, over which a mulberry-tree stretched its branches, loaded with fruit of the deepest purple, a Turk, reading my thoughts by the

* Busbequius.

way my looks were bent, desired that I would help myself, and following him through a hole in the wall, we ascended, when I made unlimited use of his indulgence. Except at Otranto, in Apulia, I never saw mulberries which so well repaid the trouble of climbing a tree. Here we had a quarter of kid for breakfast; and, from its fibrous tenacity, I conclude the animal was itself at breakfast when we arrived.

Left Isnic at nine. Passing round the head of Lake Ascanius, whose narrow winding bed lies in the bosom of Olympus, the Tartar continued at an unusually slow pace, although the track was good; and upon leaving the lake we ascended the mountains to a village and a large Xan, at which we halted for a few minutes. Here I expressed my displeasure at the tardy manner in which we had been travelling for the last three hours; when Ali became angry, and as the tones on either side grew higher, I was obliged to give utterance to the opprobrious terms with which my tutor at Aleppo had furnished me.

The Aga's temper did not mend upon this address, but it worked like magic upon his speed.

The Soulajee was ordered to free the sumpter-horses from each other, and turn them loose; when the Tartar took into his own hands the task of driving them. Their heads being at liberty, they were better able to extend themselves in galloping; and being known to each other, they kept together and followed the track to which they had been accustomed.

We were about to descend the ridge of Olympus, at the summit of which we had arrived, and the party set off *at score;* the Tartar driving before him the loose horses, and the Soulajee and myself keeping our places as we best could. The descent was rocky; but Ali was too much blinded by the irritated state of his feelings to notice such an inconvenience: he had screwed himself up to the determination that I should have speed enough; and his riding was like that of a maniac, unconscious of the frail nature of his bones, and the jeopardy in which they were placed. It never was my fortune to cross a country where nerve was so requisite, and judgment so little available, as in *riding to* the Tartar down the side of Olympus.

The mountain torrents, which, upon the little tracts of table-land, had formed themselves into wide streams, three feet in depth, were crossed at speed, and the cool copious sprinkling, thrown over us from head to foot, afforded a welcome mitigation to the heat of exercise under a July sun: but the horses beginning to fail, and Ali being overcome by thirst, we drew up on the bank of a river, and thus gave the Soulajee, who had fallen far behind, time to come up; and we then renewed our journey, in the same fashion, to the Gulf of Isnicmid,* where we hoisted sail in a large ferry-boat, and crossed the bay, leaving the town to the right.

On the opposite side is a post station for the Tartars; and the horses, which were feeding upon the low marshy grass-land about it, were driven together, and enough being caught for our use, turned out to be the worst animals we had met with during our journey from Aleppo. They fell so frequently from exhaustion, that I was soon obliged to dismount and drive before me the luckless brute that was unable to carry me.

* Nicomedia.

At one hour and a half from the ferry is the village of Gebise, the Lybissa of antiquity, consecrated in history as the place of Hannibal's burial. It overlooks the Gulf of Nicomedia, and many stately cypresses cast a funereal shade over the soil where the ashes of the warrior repose. The country, uneven but not mountainous, is cultivated with wheat and barley.

It was midnight before we reached the environs of Scutari, where we remained till morning; and at sunrise entered the cypress grove which marks the cemetery on the eastern side of Constantinople.

Some companies of infantry were at drill in the park near their barracks to the left of the road; and though in quickness and regularity of movements they were very inferior to European troops, yet it was easy to see they were advanced so far beyond the Egyptian soldiers, that nothing but the incapacity of their general could have brought upon them those repeated defeats which they suffered in the late campaign.

The first view* of Stamboul, in descending

* The most striking *coup-d'œil* is from the Seraskier's Tower.

through the interminable forest of cypress, does not disappoint even the most sanguine expectations, however long and ardently they may have been cherished. Her domes and minarets rise above each other, and yet seem as if based upon the deep blue water of the Bosphorus, where the flag of every nation under heaven is waving from vessels of the largest bulk, and the slim delicate caïque shoots like an arrow from shore to shore; while the gaudy-vested people, like painted insects, moving to and fro, charm the eye and beguile the imagination till a phantom flits before it, as of some enchanted isle, where all is beauty, gaiety, and bliss. And now the aërial caïque wafts you, with the rapidity of thought, to the stairs of Topana, eager to enter upon anticipated joys; when suddenly you awaken from the dream, and find that instead of the halls of Circe, you are enticed into her *sty!* Chagrin and horror displace all other feelings.

In the steep streets of Pera all nature is offensive: from fairy visions you are roused to a dread of the plague, and shrink from every object around you, as if death were in its

touch: yet, in spite of the nicest caution, you are hustled at each step by swaggering Turks, mangy dogs, squalid Jews, lying Greeks, lousy Arabs, cheating Franks, and women wandering in grave-clothes.

THE END.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY SAMUEL BENTLEY,
Dorset Street, Fleet Street.

00085847

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 02 January, 2016